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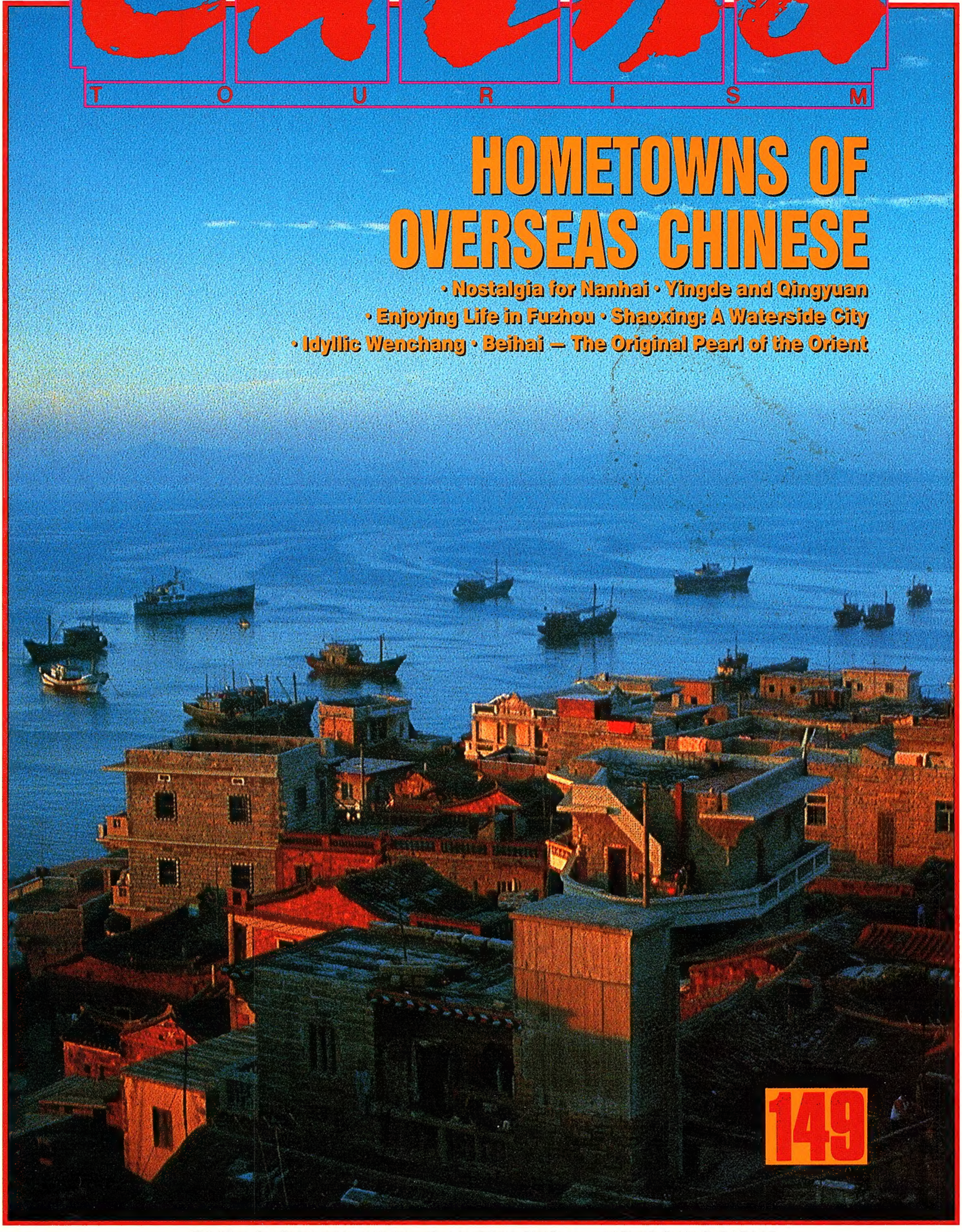

HOMETOWNS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

- Nostalgia for Nanhai • Yingde and Qingyuan
- Enjoying Life in Fuzhou • Shaoxing: A Waterside City
- Idyllic Wenchang • Beihai — The Original Pearl of the Orient

149

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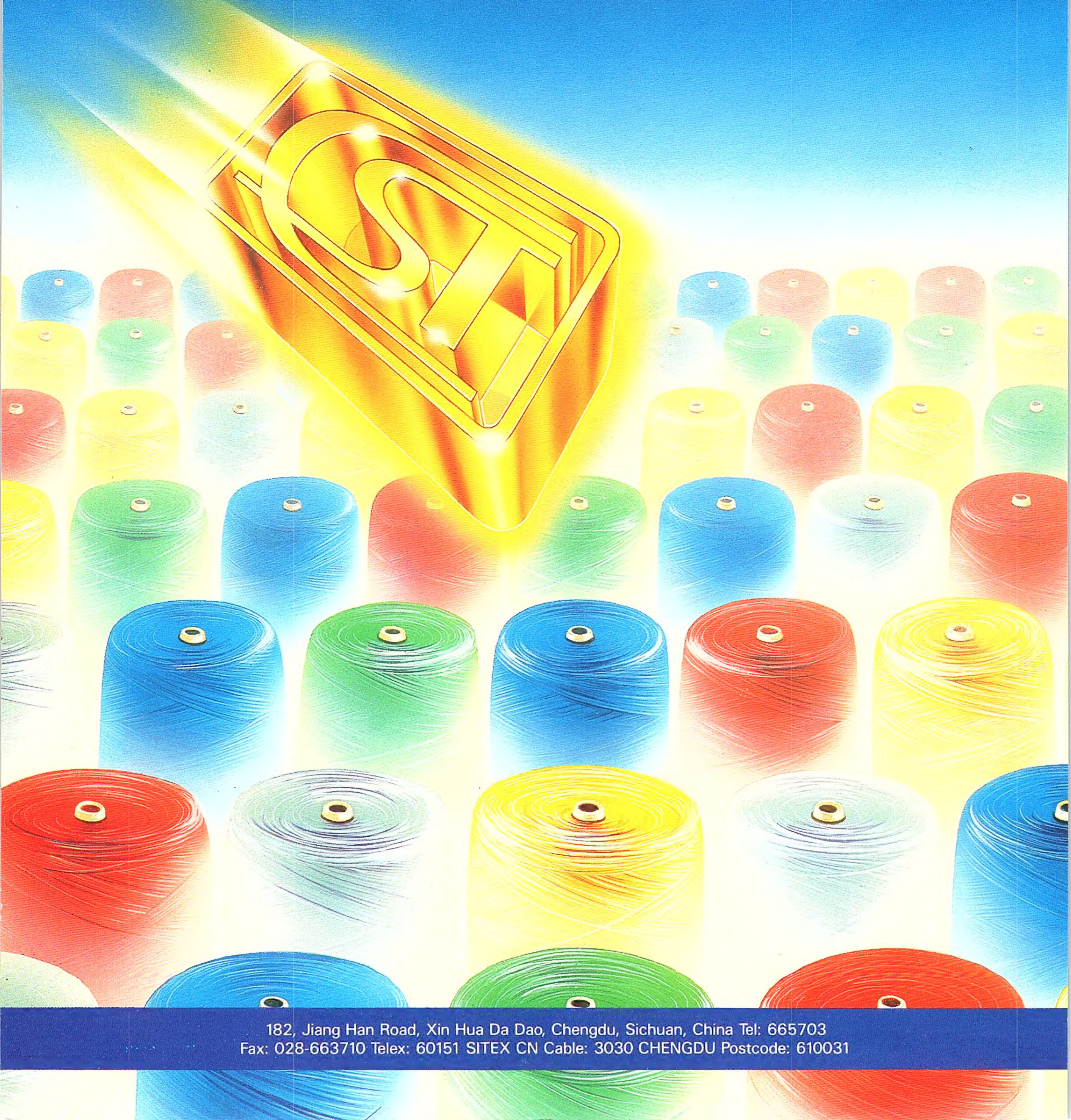
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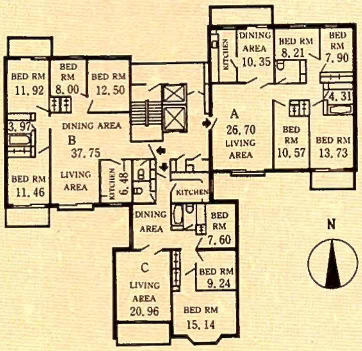

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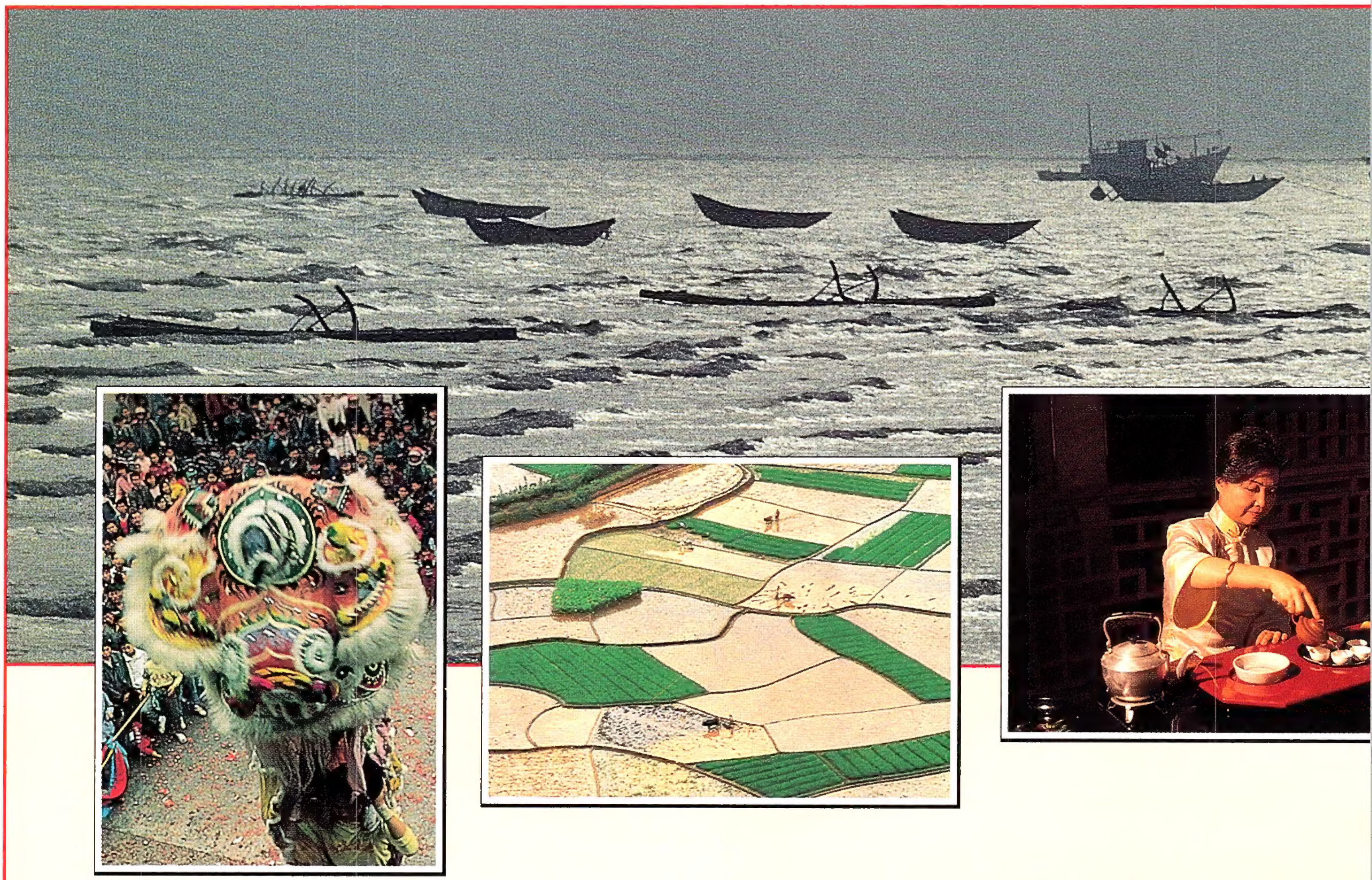

EDITORIAL

Journeys to the Hometowns of Overseas Chinese

There are many people in this world who, for one reason or another, have been uprooted from their homelands and, willing or otherwise, have settled down elsewhere. This is true of many thousands of Chinese, who, during the latter nineteenth century and motivated by financial considerations, have left their town or village in China to make a new life in foreign countries. The striking thing about these overseas Chinese as well as foreign citizens of Chinese origin is that the longer they have lived in another land, the greater their sense of nostalgia has always grown for their old hometowns.

One manifestation of this cultural affinity which they have maintained over the years is their increasingly frequent pilgrimages to their ancestral homes to renew old family ties as well as to discover their roots. More than this, some of these places are fascinating in their own right, as they often feature picturesque scenery and cultural and historic sites of interest.

Starting from the north, we will take you to historic Shaoxing in Zhejiang, one of China's twenty-four famous cultural cities. With an extensive network of canals, old Shaoxing captures the peculiar charm of the Yangtse River estuary which enticed emperors down through the ages to undertake excursions here. Fuzhou, capital of Fujian, is rapidly modernizing its industry, infrastructure and architecture, yet still offers a number of picturesque areas and historical sites epitomized by Drum Mountain and West Lake, both of which have a number of scenic views and historical monuments.

Nanhai, Yingde and Qingyuan in Guangdong's prosperous Pearl River Delta, are representative of the evolution of boom towns in this region from an agriculturally based economy to an industrialized dynamo. Beihai in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, one of the starting points on the ancient Maritime Silk Road, is the source of the famous Southern pearls treasured by collectors throughout history and also offers some of the largest and most beautiful beaches found anywhere in the world. Finally, we will end up in idyllic Wenchang, a tropical seaside paradise with beautiful Qinglan Harbour and lush, green Wenchang Plain with its coconut groves.

Please turn the page and you can begin to gain some insight into the experience of overseas Chinese and foreign citizens of Chinese origin when they embark on journeys back to their ancestral homes.

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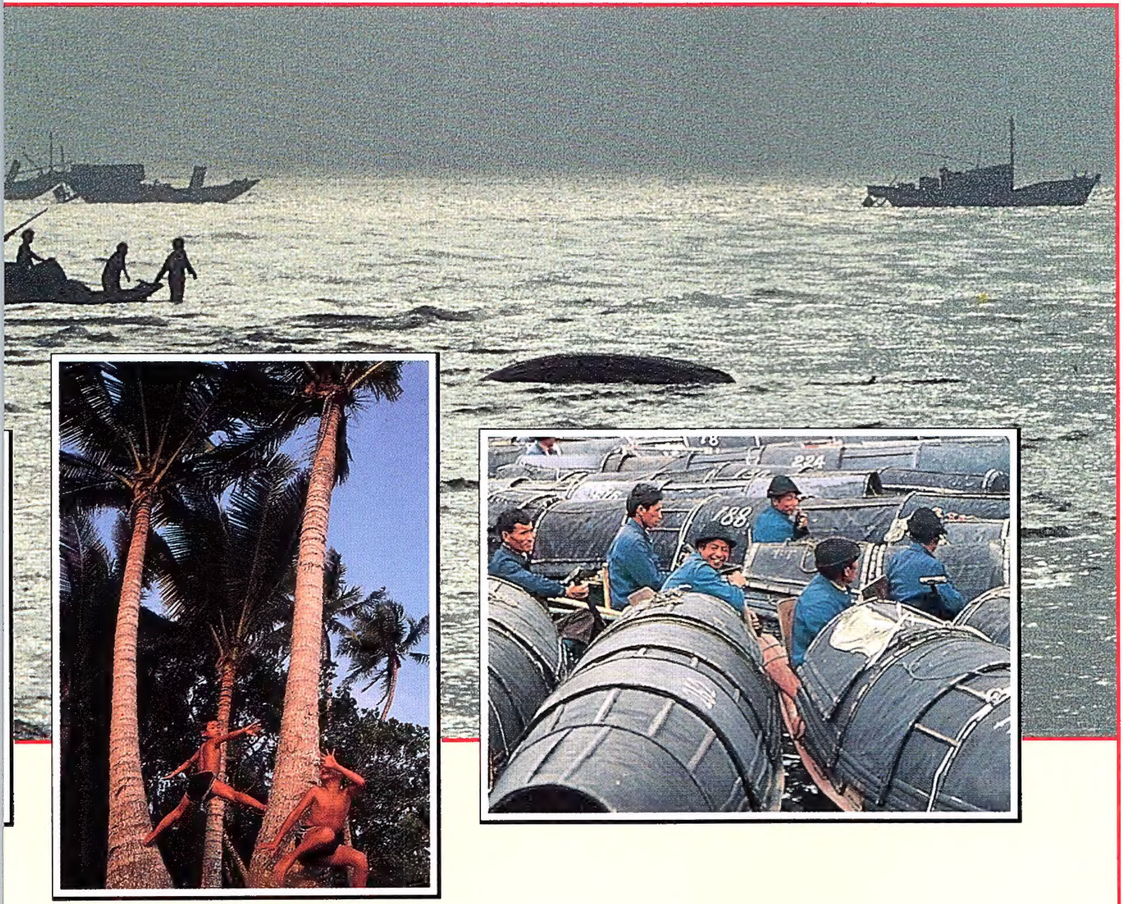

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32 Beihai — The Original Pearl of the Orient This ancient port city and home of Southern pearls treasured by connoisseurs down through the ages also features a twenty-kilometre-long beach.

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Hometowns of Overseas Chinese

A mass migration of people from China's southeastern coastal region commenced over one hundred years ago. Before the 1840-1842 Opium War, individual families or small groups of traders settled in East and West Asia. But from around 1845, emigrants from this region were mostly labourers who eventually would settle in more than 160 countries and regions throughout the world.

In addition to blood and family ties, both overseas Chinese and foreign citizens of Chinese origin have maintained a cultural affinity and economic ties with their hometowns about which they sometimes wax nostalgic. Perhaps more significantly, since the Open Door Policy was launched in the late 1970's, they have developed ever closer business relationships with China which have taken the form of investment in property, production facilities and infrastructure and even outright donations. As a result, the transportation, trade and tourism sectors in many of their ancestral homes have experienced an enviably rapid development, in no small measure due to their contributions.

More than half of the estimated 30 million overseas Chinese and foreign citizens of Chinese origin are from Guangdong Province, while most of these hail from the Pearl River Delta and the eastern coastal areas of the province. They have tended to settle in Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand and the United States.

Emigrants from Fujian account for most of the balance, about seven million people altogether. Their ancestral homes are near the traditionally important port cities of Quanzhou, Fuzhou and Xiamen. These people usually settled in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines and Indonesia.

The three cities mentioned above have been important trading centres since the Tang (618-907) and even the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), with Quanzhou being one of China's most cosmopolitan cities during the Tang and Song (960-1279) eras. These cities have also experienced a parallel migration from China's Central Plains and a consequent melding of their indigenous culture with that brought by the new arrivals. As a result, the original native customs have all but disappeared, but anthropologists and tourists alike still pursue an interest in the relics of the erstwhile prevailing culture, which can only be found in Fujian.

Emigrants from Hainan account for about 1.7 million. The ancestral homes of these emigrants centre around Wenchang and Qionghai and they have for the most part settled in Thailand and Malaysia. Hainan is at once the smallest province and the largest Special Economic Zone in China. Improved transportation infrastructure and tourist accommodation facilities have contributed to a rapid increase in the number of visitors to Hainan, who come largely to enjoy the pristine beaches and water recreational activities.

The eastern coast of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in particular the Beihai area, also has a long history of overseas trade. Not surprisingly, a significant number of locals has migrated from Guangxi, mostly from Beihai, Rongxian, Yulin, Qinzhou, Wuzhou and Cenxi. About one million people who can trace their lineage to these counties are now living overseas, mainly in Indo-China. Beihai has become one of the fourteen coastal cities in China open to foreign trade and commerce. As a result of these developments, eastern Guangxi has become accessible to the international marketplace. A recently launched tourist route along the southeastern coast of Guangxi is one of three major itineraries available to travellers in Guangxi. This route brings visitors to some of the charming seascapes of the Beibu Gulf, peaceful fishing villages and also provides the chance to participate in a Sino-Vietnamese border tour. Along this route, one has the chance to appreciate interesting historical relics and local specialties such as Southern pearls and Shatian pomelos.

Zhejiang, a cultural centre of long standing in China, is also the ancestral home of many overseas Chinese. Of the 870,000 emigrants and their descendants in Europe a considerable number is from Ningbo, Wenzhou, Qingtian and Shaoxing. The waterside country south of the Yangtse River features many quaint ancient towns and old large cities. Some of the better-known destinations include Hangzhou, which Marco Polo described as the most distinguished and beautiful city in the world, and enchanting Shaoxing. The Putuo Mountain, one of the four sacred mountains of Buddhism and dedicated to Guanyin, offers ancient monasteries and magnificent beaches for swimmers as well.

To pass through Nanhai County only takes a mere twenty minutes drivng along the Guangzhou-Foshan Express way (by Yang Yaotong).

Nostalgia for Nanhai

PHOTOS BY PENG ZHENGE
ARTICLE BY ZHONG LIU

Vast stretches of rice seedling beds can be seen everywhere in this fertile land of the Pearl River Delta (by Yang Yaotong).

Whenever I return to Nanhai, my hometown, a strong nostalgia wells up from the bottom of my heart. More than ten years ago, whenever one looked about this water country, you would find only fields, fish ponds, rivers, muddy paths and old cottages. Nanhai County is still seen as full of fish and rice. Now, however, row upon row of high factory buildings, schools, hospitals, restaurants and hotels can be seen as formerly vast fields and fish ponds have shrunk day by day. Newly built cement and asphalt roads are obviously more welcome to the local people than the muddy paths, some of which can still be seen. Old cottages weathered by wind and rain look even older than they actually are in contrast to the nearby newly built modern houses and villas.

廣東
GUANGDONG
南海
Nanhai
廣州
Guangzhou

An old tree, a river and some small boats form a picture of typical water country.

Vast stretches of vegetable and flower plots can be seen on either side of the Guangzhou-Foshan Highway. Here many flower-growers are selling their freshly-cut flowers (by Yang Yaotong).

Each town in Nanhai has rural markets with its own unique products. The duck market in Dali Town is a large market from where nearly 40,000 ducks are shipped monthly to Guangzhou to be sold (by Yang Yaotong).

Ideal Water, Land and Air Transportation

With fertile land and plentiful water, Guangdong's Nanhai County, located in the hinterland of the Pearl River Delta, is rich in natural resources. In addition, it is close to Hong Kong and Macau and borders on Guangzhou and Foshan, providing the impetus to develop water, land and air transportation. Apart from the Guangzhou-Maoming Railway and the Guangzhou-Foshan Highway traversing the whole county from east to west, there are also three container ports, Jiujiang, Beicun and Nangang, leading directly to Hong Kong and Macau. Foshan Airport, situated in Luocun Town, has flights to a number of provinces and municipalities in China every day. With such good transportation, no wonder great changes have taken place in Nanhai.

Huangqi Furniture City

Speeding along the Guangzhou-Foshan Highway from Guangzhou, we came to Huangqi Town of Nanhai County where a gateway bearing five Chinese characters, "Huangqi Furniture City", came into sight.

With as many as 60 furniture sellers and a total floor area of 40,000 square metres, Huangqi Furniture City is said to be one of the largest furniture markets in Guangdong Province. Inside the furniture city, there are roads for lorries delivering furniture. On both sides of these roads are shops where upmarket and bargain-basement furniture in both Chinese and Western styles are displayed. High-grade polyester wardrobes, beds, combination cabinets and leather sofas, blackwood tables and chairs and various household items made of cane are all arranged into different categories and displayed in rows waiting to be sold.

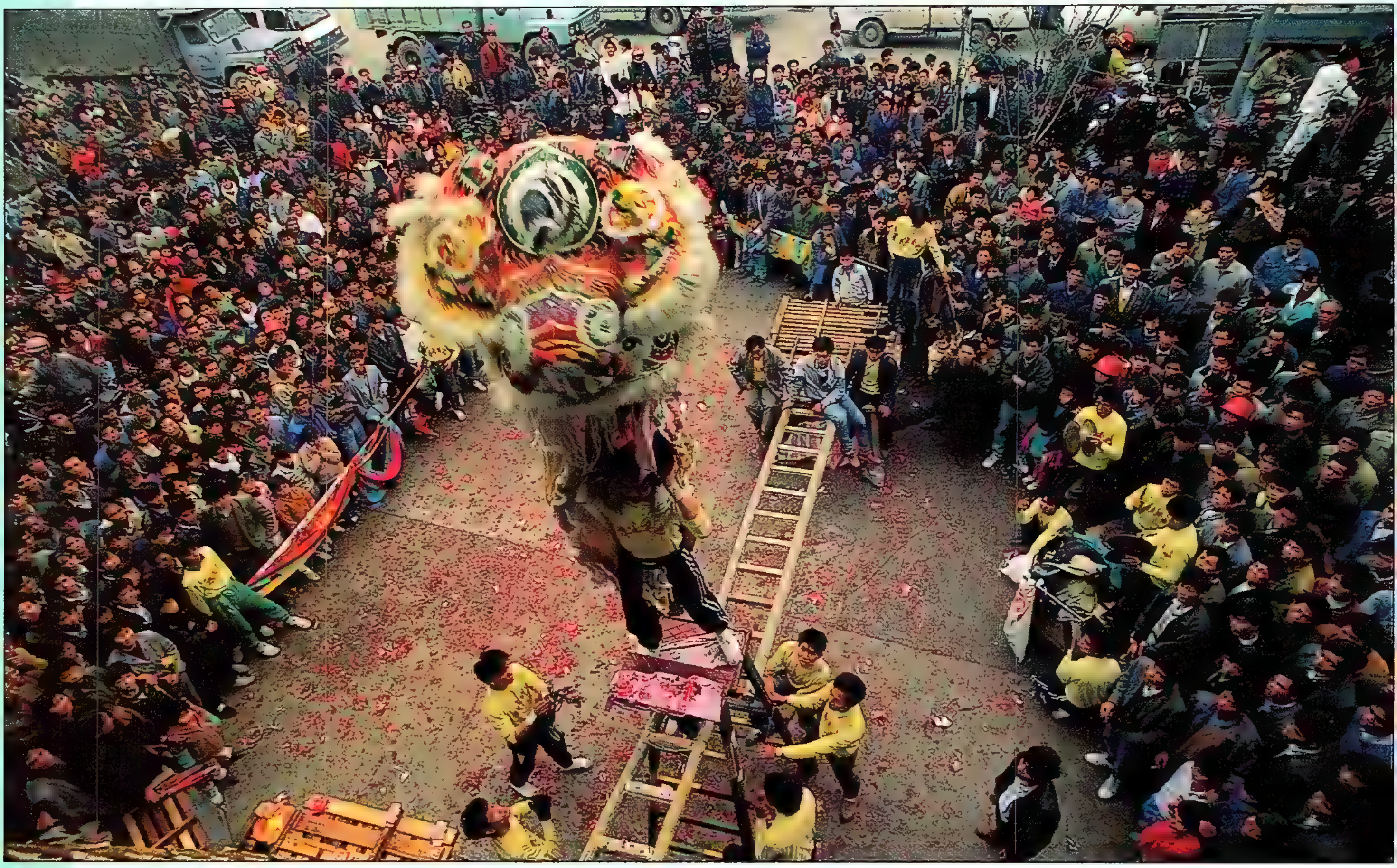
The reason why business in the city is

Hardly anything can be better than colourful flowers to decorate a room and beautify the environment.

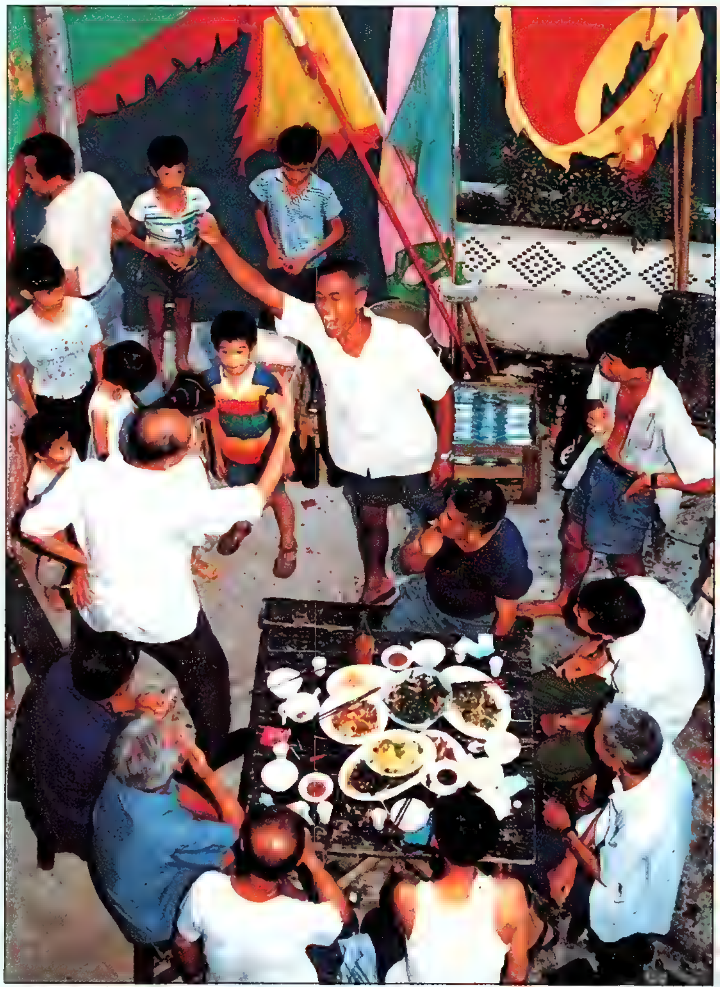
On the Huangqi Road section of the Guangzhou-Foshan Highway stands a shop by the roadside selling famous Western-style lamps.

Recently, motorcycles have become useful in assisting the people of Nanhai to do their business. They are indeed much better for transport than bicycles.

On the day of the "Hundred Lions Meet" in Dali Town, the sound of gongs and drums, mixed with cheers, resounds through the whole square.



At the time of the Dragon Boat Festival (the fifth day of the fifth lunar month), the villagers get together to enjoy an enormous feast (by Yang Yaotong).



At the dinner feast celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival, the villagers put aside their routine work and enjoy themselves eating and drinking (by Yang Yaotong).

growing constantly is that more and more farmers in Nanhai have left their old cottages and have moved into beautiful and spacious modern-style houses, resulting in more attention being paid to the furnishing of houses. Famous items of furniture in modern design have naturally become the popular choice.

Industrial Areas Dotted Among Orchards, Vegetable and Flower Plots

Apart from Furniture City, there are quite a number of both big and small shops on both sides of the Guangzhou-Foshan Highway in Huangqi Town, selling lamps, fitness equipment, auto parts and other sundry items. Vast stretches of orchards, and vegetable and flower plots can be seen from the roadside. Flower growers can occasionally be seen by the roadside selling fresh flowers such as yellow and white chrysanthemums, purplish-red Chinese peonies and pink roses.

What is interesting to see is the emergence of one industrial area after another near the vast stretches of orchards and vegetable and flower plots. In these industrial areas, one can find various types of factories and enterprises, including cane weaving, electronic and electrical appliances, hardware, toys and pharmaceutical laboratories. Some of them are invested by local entrepreneurs while others are joint ventures run by foreign citizens of Chinese origin or people from Hong Kong and Macau and local enterprises.

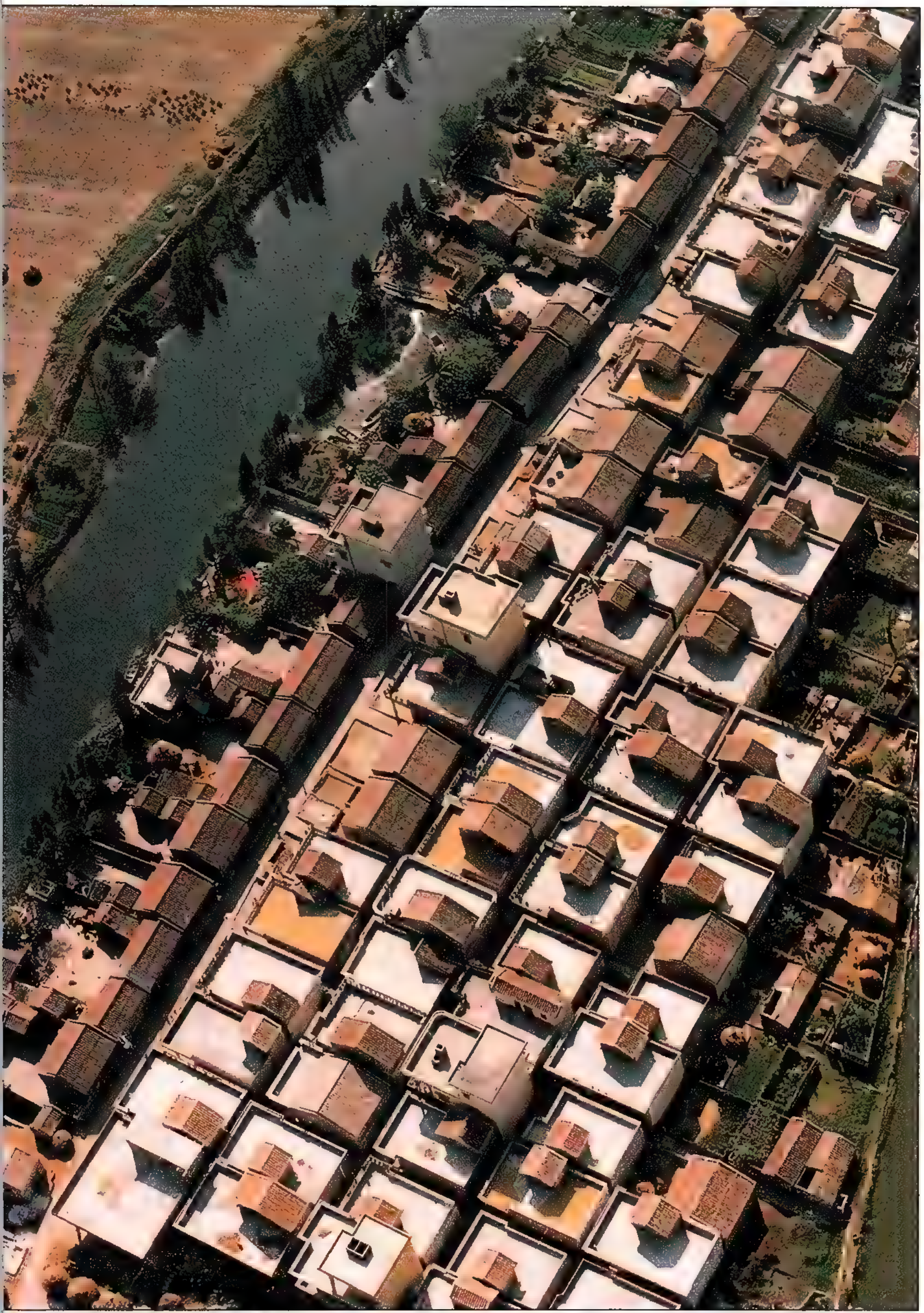
Driving from Huangqi Town to Dali Town along the Guangzhou-Foshan Highway, many motorcycles overtook us on our way. It seems most of the farmers in Nanhai County have adopted motorcycles as a means of transportation instead of bicycles. Every day they load their motorcycles with vegetables, melons, fresh fish, chickens, ducks and geese to take to the big and small cities like Guangzhou and Foshan.

Early in the morning, more than one hundred motorcycles can be seen parked outside the restaurants in Dali Town. When the drivers have finished breakfast in the restaurants there, they immediately speed off along the highway.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year with a "Hundred Lions Meet"

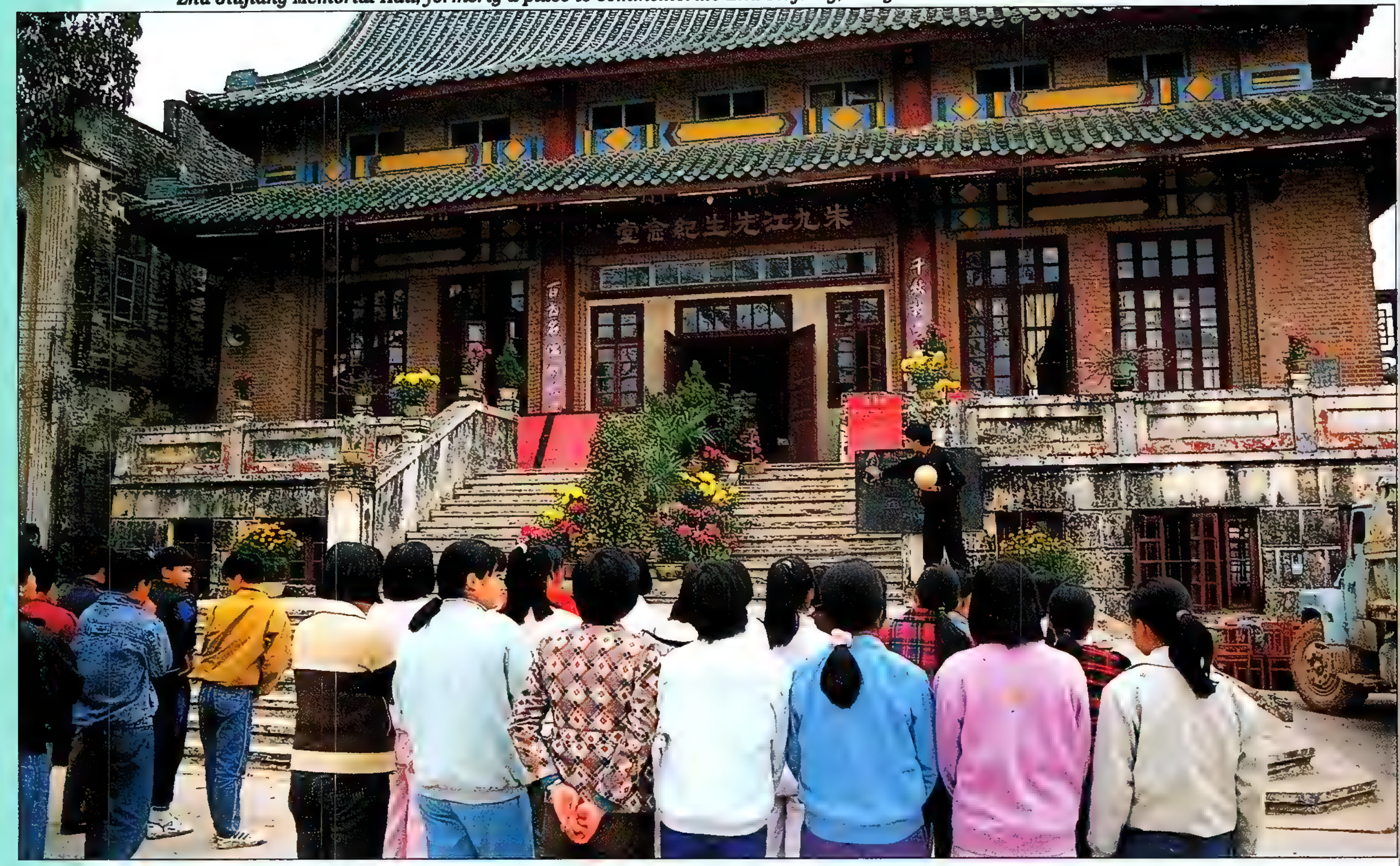
Each Lunar New Year, all the villages and towns in Nanhai as elsewhere in China have Lion Dances as part of the celebration. It was my good fortune to be in Dali Town in time to see the "Hundred Lions Meet".

Early in the morning of the eve of the Lantern Festival (the fifteenth day of the first lunar month), nearly 500 "lions" in a variety of styles, from local villages and towns and from Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Huaxian, Shunde and Sanshui assembled in Dali's Town Square to the deafening sound of gongs and drums.



Many farmers in Luocun Town, Nanhai County, have moved into this kind of new two or three-storey building, the roof of which is used for drying grain (by Yang Yaotong).

Zhu Jiujiang Memorial Hall, formerly a place to commemorate Zhu Jiujiang, Kang Youwei's teacher, is now used as a school assembly hall.



Jiujiang Town's Cimu (Kindly Mother) Bridge was built and donated by a foreign citizen of Chinese origin.

Walking on a stone bridge over the lake in a fine drizzle is an experience worthy of poetry.

This kind of pavilion built as a resting place can be found everywhere in Nanhai.

Among those skilled in performing the Lion Dance were experienced old men with white beards and less experienced young men. However, what amazed a lot of people was a group of bright and brave women with exceptional abilities. Lions, lionesses, old lions and lion cubs rolled forwards and backwards or climbed up on each other, looking every bit as strong and brave as a real lion, and receiving a great ovation from the onlookers.

The Largest Wholesale Cloth Market in China

The beautiful landscape of Mount Xiqiao is well known to those who have been to Nanhai. As a matter of fact, Xiqiao Town is not only well known just for Mount Xiqiao, it is in fact the "home of the textile industry". China's first textile enterprise, Jichanglong Reeling Mill, was set up in 1837 in Xiqiao. Nowadays, textile mills, textile machinery and cloth stores are scattered all over Xiqiao Town creating a textile centre. Moreover, there is a wholesale cloth market in Xiqiao which is the largest of its kind in China. The market has so many kinds of cloth that it attracts businessmen from all over China who come here to buy cloth. It is said that cloth bought from Xiqiao will be displayed in Hunan within three days and will reach Inner Mongolia within seven days.

Jiujiang Town is one of the central producing areas of freshwater fish in Nanhai. Most of its fish are shipped to other places for sale through Heshan Port.

Changing Sights in Jiujiang Town

Jiujiang Town is the main freshwater fish-producing area in Nanhai and boats at Heshan Port within the town can often be seen loaded with fish, ready to be shipped to other places for sale.

However, this is only one aspect of life in Jiujiang. As time goes by, quite a number of shops and brand-new stores have sprung up on both sides of Jiujiang's broad thoroughfare in the last dozen or so years. In addition, there are quite a few buildings combining both Chinese and Western styles. For example, two buildings thirty or forty metres in height located near the junction of Rulin East Road and Renmin Road face each other, with the ground floor of one housing the Bank of Agriculture, and another housing the Bank of Industry and Commerce, with the first floor of both structures serving as offices and the higher floors, as residential areas. Another example is Jiujiang Market, a newly built three-storey building housing not only stalls and shops selling vegetables, fish and meat, groceries and food, etc., but also nearly one hundred clothing stores!

With all sorts of feelings welling up inside me, I am deeply moved by the sight of progress and prosperity.

Translated by Yang Meizhen

HOMETOWNS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

Yingde and Qingyuan – Above and Below Ground

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY PENG ZHENGE

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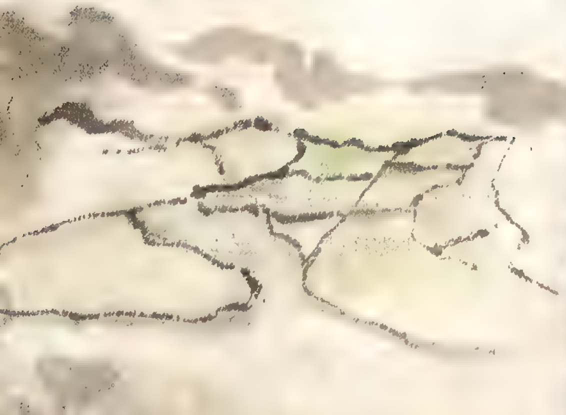
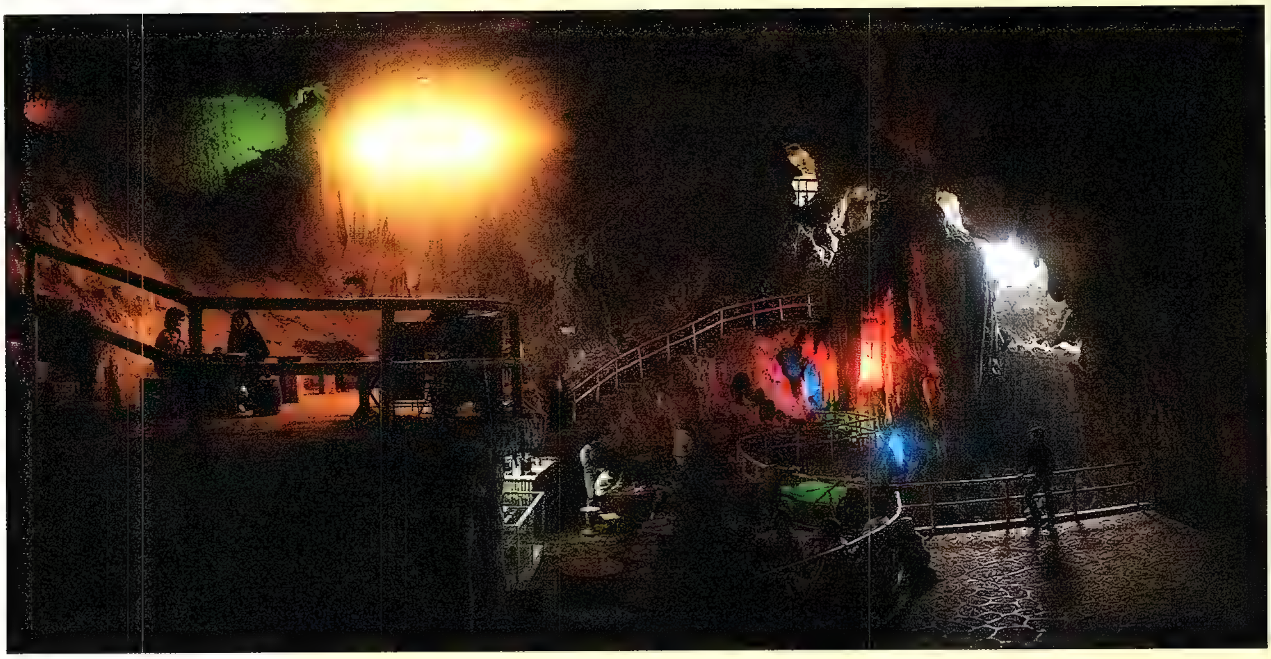


Jiulong's paddy fields (1) — important scenic elements in this rural idyll (2)



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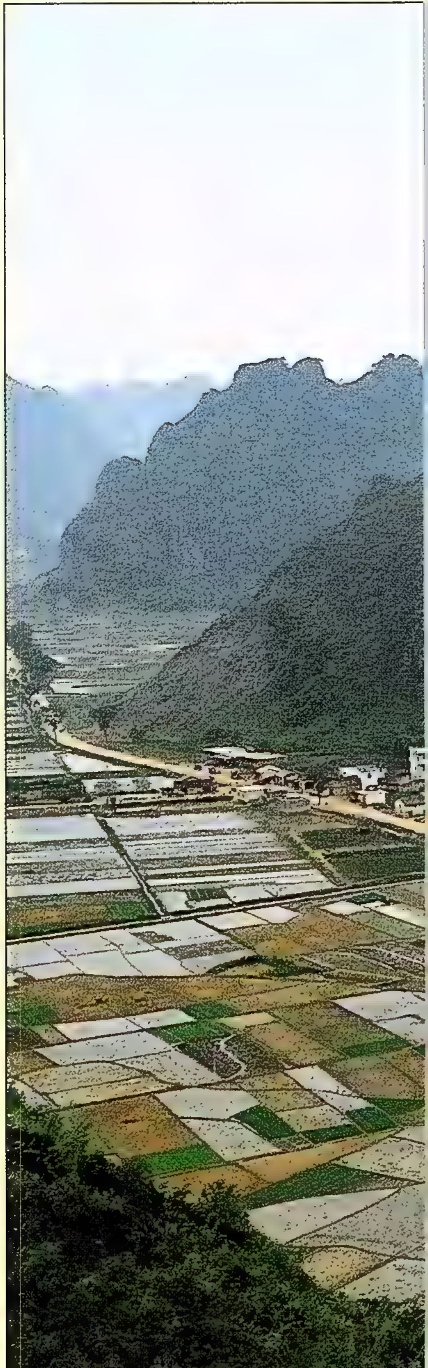


The most famous tourist attraction in northern Guangdong Province is, without a doubt, the Danxia (Red Cloud) Mountains north of Shaoguan (see CHINA TOURISM no. 84). Other major destinations are the 'Nine Rapids and Eighteen Shoals' north of Lechang on the River Wushui and the Yao nationality areas in the northwest. And now Yingde, a county located between the provincial capital Guangzhou and Shaoguan, is attracting increasing attention owing to the opening up to the public in recent years of a large karst cave about eight kilometres southwest of the county town.

Yingde is on the Beijing-Guangzhou railway line, so is easy to reach. From the railway station I hired a motor tricycle and crossed the kilometre-long bridge spanning the River Beijiang towards Yingzhou Hotel in the town centre. On the way I saw Wenbi (Writing Brush) Pagoda and Mingxian (Crinkling String) Peak of the Nanshan Mountains soaring above the fields and low buildings flanking the river.

Once settled into the hotel, I set off again – by bus this time. My destination was the so-called Baojing (Gems and Crystal) Palace, the largest and the strangest karst cavern in the whole of Guangdong.

As you approach the site, your eyes are caught by three huge Chinese characters carved on the cliffside, spelling out the cavern's name. Each ten metres square, these characters were executed by the famous Guangdong artist Guan Shanyue; the actual carving took three months' hard work by a dozen stonemasons. On a totally different time scale, the four-tiered cavern inside the cliff was formed by nature over 200 million years.

I walked for around a hundred metres up the hill along a zigzag path before entering the bottom level of the Baojing Palace. The temperature inside the cavern at this level is about 18°C all year round, and it was very quiet as well as cool. However, too many garishly coloured lights had been installed in it for my taste.

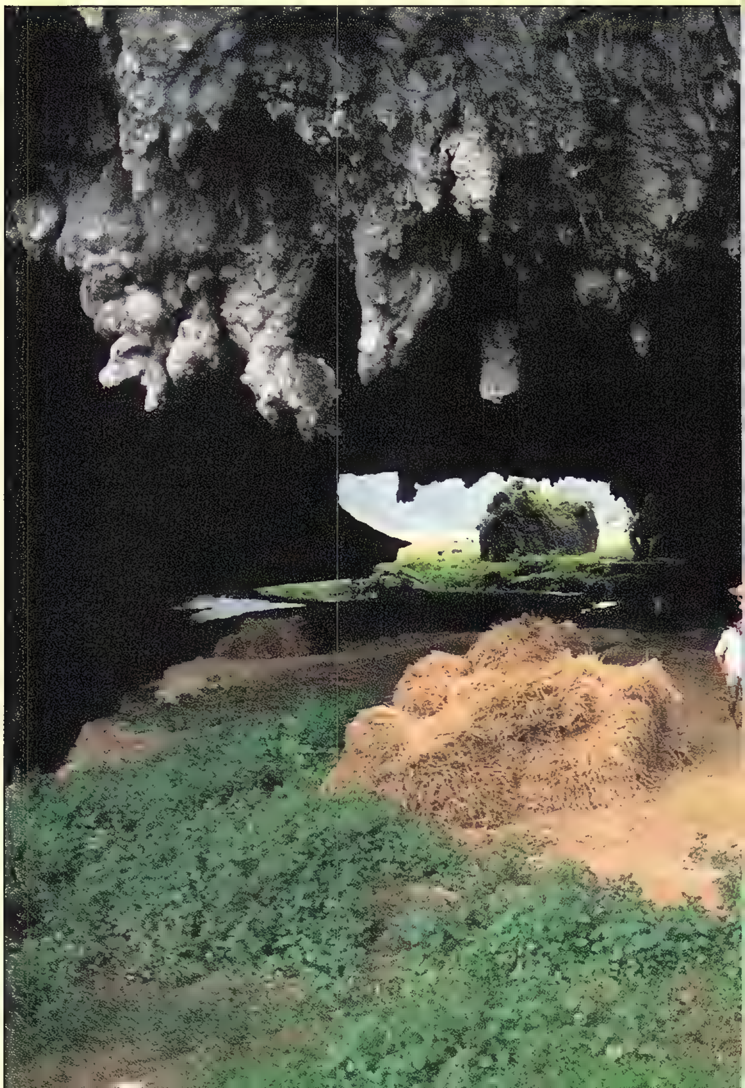
The second level, reached via steps, is rather different in atmosphere. It has been fitted out as a teahouse. There were groups of

The teahouse on the second level of the cavern (1), whose name is carved in giant characters on the cliffside (2). Typical karst landscape at Jiulong (3)

1

tourists sitting around, sampling tea and chatting. The temperature here was 24°C, considerably warmer than in the first cave. The teahouse was illuminated by a single crystal chandelier in the centre of the roof while sunlight filtered in through a natural opening at the top right. This contributed to the cheerful feel of this novel establishment. I ordered a cup of famous Yingde black tea. The teahouse manager told me that this local speciality was first planted by a returned Overseas Chinese who had settled back in his native place. The tea had a most delicate flavour.

After continuing through the third level, I found that the fourth was not yet open to the public, so I walked outside. From the terrace at the cave's mouth I could see the river stretching across in front of me like a jade belt with green fields to my left.



Beancurd and Ancestors

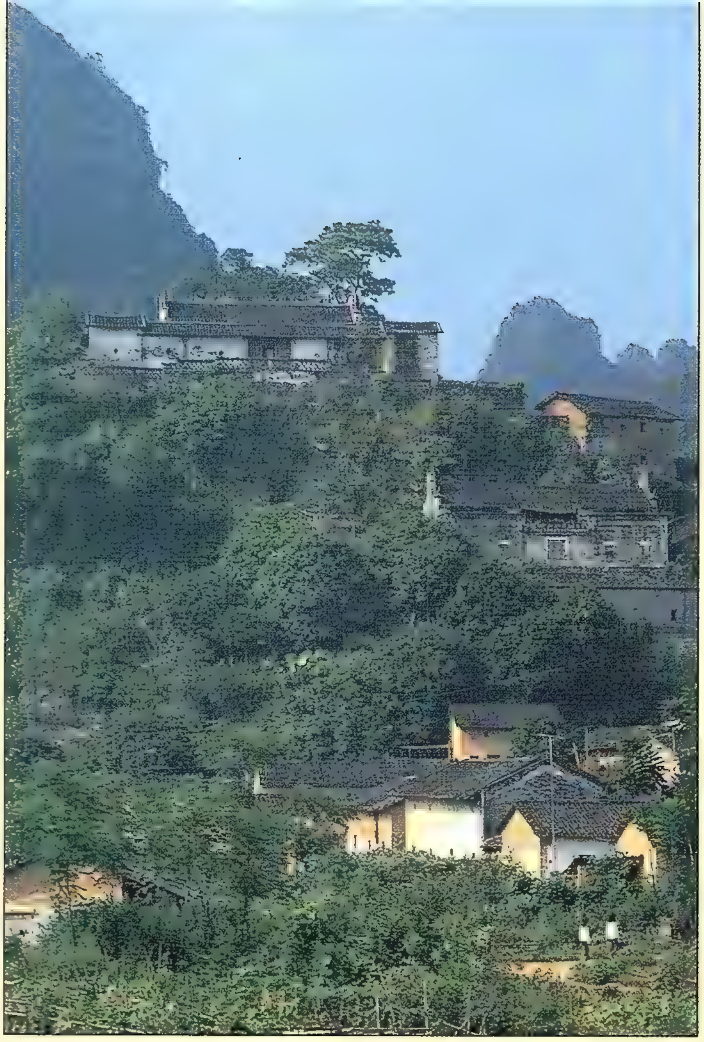
Next I took a bus to the township of Mingjing, famous for its beancurd. All this area is limestone and, in the vicinity of Jiulong (Nine Dragons), another renowned beancurd-making place, the scenery is very similar to that at Guilin in Guangxi Province. Karst pinnacles soared near and far, some of them tilted in the same direction like a field of wheat in a strong breeze. Paddy fields were disposed asymmetrically around the base of the limestone pinnacles.

It took several more hours to get to Mingjing. Of course, I ordered rice with beancurd for my supper. Owing to the extremely fine water in Mingjing and its surrounding areas and the skills handed down from generation to generation, the beancurd made here really does taste exceptionally good and its texture is superb.

Early the next morning, when the small township was still slumbering amidst the mists, I went for a stroll in the fields. The previous night, when I was checking in at the hostel, the receptionist had told me that there was a village nearby called Zhaishan where all the villagers bore the surname Peng. Since I too am a Peng, I had decided I would have to visit this village. After all, there was a possibility that I was a descendant of the same clan.

After making my way through the fields for twenty minutes, I crossed a stream and entered the village. Brick houses with tiled

Man and beast (and bird) live in harmony (1 and 3). Beancurd is a famous local product (2). Nicknamed 'Lesser Lhasa', the Peng Ancestral Hall (4) contains delicate architectural details (5).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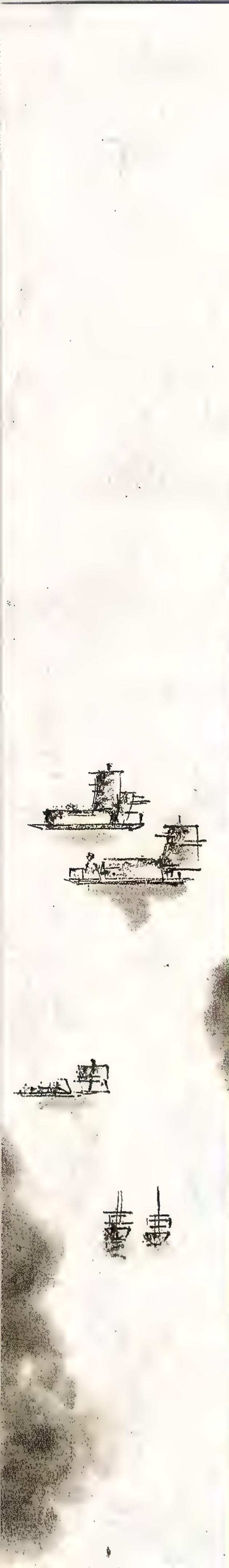
roofs were arranged on either side of the path. I counted them; there were more than a hundred.

A woman was sweeping the ground in front of her home. I approached her and struck up a conversation. At first she was rather reserved but, as soon as she learned my family name was Peng, she invited me into her house for a rest. As she kindly served me a bowl of sweet maize gruel, she told me that the ancestors of the villagers had moved here from the village of Dali in Nanhai County (west of Guangzhou) some three hundred years ago. There have been fourteen generations since then, and the population is now over 1,000. The villagers have traditionally made a living by growing rice and vegetables and raising fish – a self-sufficient sort of life. With the stream in front and hills shielding it at the back, the village forms a little world of its own.

The Peng Ancestral Hall bears telling witness to the multiplication of the Peng clan. My new-found friend insisted on taking me there. We crossed back over the stream and followed another path for ten minutes until a rather shabby old building came into sight on top of a hill. She told me that this was the Ancestral Hall. It is called 'Lesser Lhasa' by the locals (a reference to the Potala Palace in Lhasa because of its hilltop position!)

Temple from Afar

From Mingjing I continued further south to Qingyuan. This county is famous for its chickens. Special methods are used by the locals to rear them. They feed the poultry with unhusked rice, never any fattening agents or synthetic feedstuffs. From time to time they allow their chickens to run free in the bamboo groves, enjoying the sunshine and pecking at worms and insects. I was told that the best-quality Qingyuan chickens come from Zhouxin, an area where the villages are surrounded by large, dense bamboo groves which provide shade in the summer heat and shelter in the cold winter.



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How could I resist? Of course, I made a special trip to Zhouxin just to try the chicken ... which was tender and delicious indeed.

Twenty-three kilometres north of Qingyuan, upstream along the River Beijiang, is Feilai Gorge. This is one of the three gorges on the river, the grandest and steepest of them. Nine kilometres long, it is lined by over seventy peaks. Here, set imposingly on the northern slope of Mount Xiashan, is Feilai (Flew from Afar) Temple, which was built in 520 during the Liang dynasty, one of the Northern and Southern Dynasties. Legend has it that this used to be the Yanzuo Temple in present-day Shucheng, Anhui Province, which was carried here through the air by two deities. Hence the name!

At the back of this Buddhist temple is a path leading to the Feiguan (Waterfall) Pavilion, below which is a small deep pool. It is said that the Song-dynasty poet Su Dongpo (1037–1101) came here on two occasions to wash his brushes after writing poems in the temple. The pool is therefore called the Brush-Washing Pool of Dongpo. There is still an inscription on stone by the poet to be seen in the Feilai Temple.

I returned to Feixia (Flying Rosy Clouds) Wharf, where I saw a group of tourists surrounding some small boats moored by the bank. It turned out that they were selecting shrimps and fish which the boatmen would then cook on the spot. I also joined the queue. I paid the boatman and sat on a makeshift seat beside the river to wait. In a few minutes, I was enjoying a dish of shrimps boiled in their shells as I revelled in the scenery along the River Beijiang.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Qingyuan's chickens are famed for their tenderness and taste (1). Rice-farmers at Zhouxin (2); shrimp-fishing with special woven traps (3). The ancient roof of Feilai Temple (4), where calligraphy by the Song poet Su Dongpo is inscribed in stone (5).

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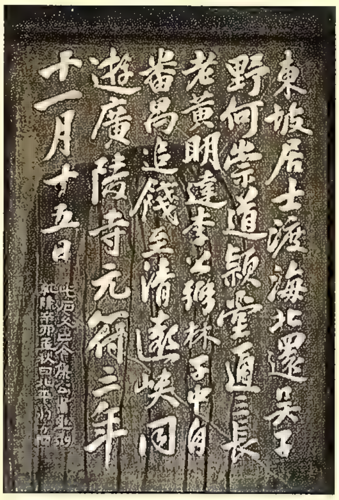
東坡居士渡海北還吳子
野何崇道穎堂通三長
老黃明達李公弼林子中自
番禺追餞至清遠峽同
遊廣慶寺元符三年
十一月十五日

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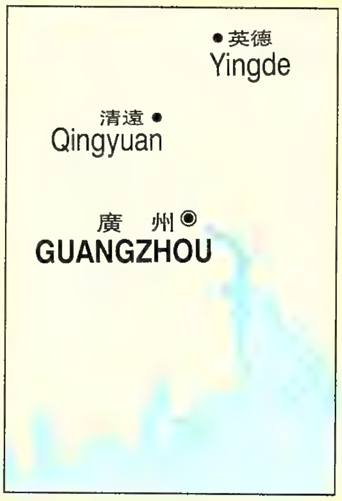
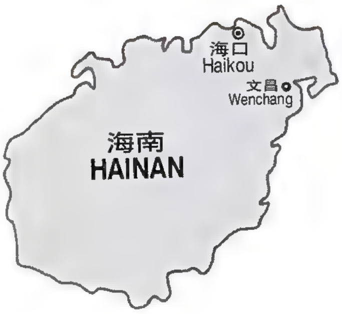


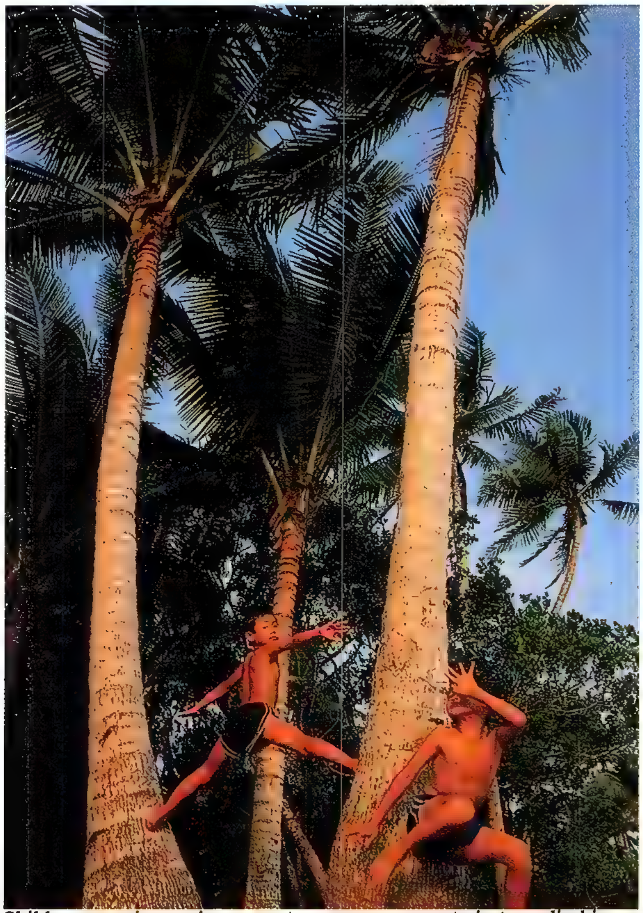

海口
Haikou
文昌
Wenchang
海南
HAINAN

HOMETOWNS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

Idyllic Wenchang

A Seaside Paradise Complete with Coconut Groves

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN



Children growing up in coconut groves are experts in tree climbing.

Large: *The charming coconut groves on Jianhuashan in Wenchang (by Lin Hongping)*

On the way to Wenchang County, Hainan Province, my thoughts turned back to six years ago when three things made an unforgettable impression on me.

Firstly, I remember the coconut groves which seemed to stretch endlessly, the sea as blue as the sky and the fine white sand beach. To me the scenery at Wenchang is unsurpassed on Hainan Island.

Secondly, six years ago in the village of Baolanzai north of the town of Wenchang, I encountered a Danish family – a couple with a little girl. What surprised me then was that in a place so remote that it even lacked public bus service, the Danes could enjoy an idyllic existence like local farmers. The Danish woman's father was originally a Chinese from Baolanzai Village who left home in search for a better life in a foreign land where he eventually married a native. In his old age, he returned to his hometown with his daughter, her Danish husband and their daughter. The couple was so overwhelmed by the scenery and the warm relationships among the local residents that they decided to stay.

Thirdly, in the midst of a typhoon, I was travelling through dense and uninhabited virgin forests and along mountain paths towards the northeast of Wenchang where only a few people lived, in the hope of seeing the hometown of Soong Ching Ling or Mme. Sun Yat-sen, wife of the founder of the Republic of China in 1911. When I arrived at my destination, I found that the village was in ruins and all the residents had deserted the place. Only the old houses of the Soong family were under restoration. It was totally beyond my expectation to see that the Soong family which had made such a strong impact on modern China had actually come from such a poor and remote location.

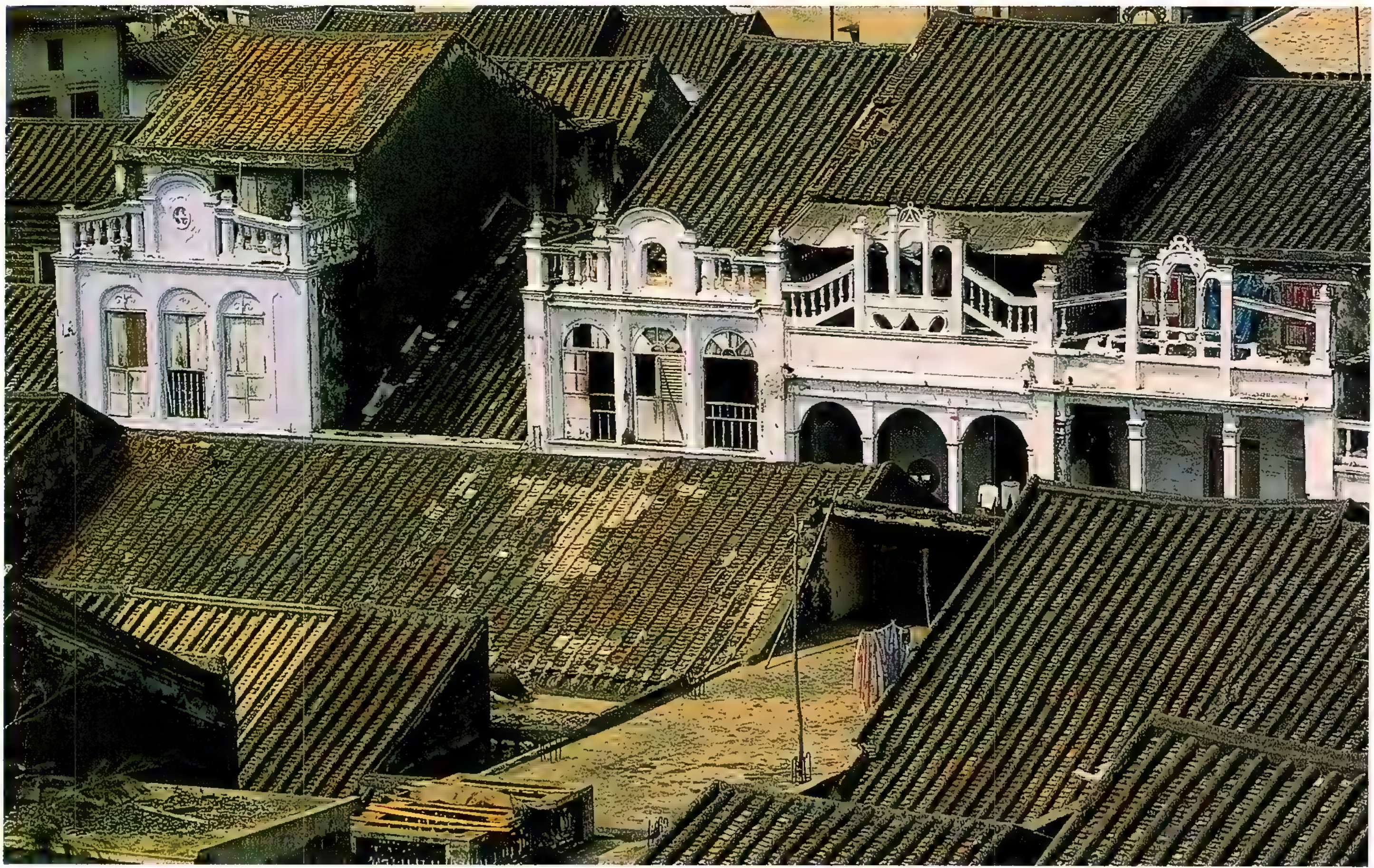
On this trip to Wencheng Town, the county seat, I was accompanied by many other interesting memories which all came back to me.

Combination of Chinese and Foreign Architecture

Wenchang County, with an area of 3,400 square kilometres, is in the northeast corner of Hainan Island. Though it presently only has a population of over half a million, there are 700,000 people now living outside China, mostly in Southeast Asia, who can trace their ancestry to Hainan, more than any other county in the province.

Wencheng Town is a quaint settlement bisected by the Wenchang River. Most of the buildings along the streets are traditional one-storey Chinese style houses with tile roofs and three-storey houses with

Mr. Han, the cousin of Mme. Soong Ching Ling, explains clearly the origin of the Soong family's surname.



These houses featuring foreign architecture are attractive and add a dimension of combining East and West.

The Confucius Temple is a symbol of a flourishing culture of long standing in Wenchang. The county has historically produced many scholars.

The small courtyard in this traditional residence compound is where the residents wash vegetables and clothes and also where children go bathing.

To maintain their ancestral links, overseas Chinese from Wenchang often come home to build houses. Houses like these are a common sight at Wenchang.

foreign architecture. The Western-style houses lining the streets stand as testimony to the life of overseas Chinese from Wenchang during the last 100 years.

Though in general Hainan Island has a comparative lack of historical and cultural significance, Wenchang has a great cultural legacy. The translation of the two characters "wen chang" is "flourishing culture". Wenchang has produced plenty of scholars, officials and successful business people since ancient times.

The Confucius Temple stands as a monument to the county's history. First built during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), it is the oldest, and the best preserved structure on Hainan Island. I found out on this, my second visit, that the temple had been renovated. An additional attraction in Wenchang Park by the Wenchang River, is Juchuan Pavilion built with money remitted back by overseas Chinese, a "must" for many older generation overseas Chinese returning for a visit to their ancestral homes.

The Mystery of the Soong Family Name

A road stretching thirty kilometres links Wencheng Town with Guluyuan Village in Changsa District. One can cover the entire distance by shuttle bus in less than an hour. The former residence of the Soongs – a traditional courtyard structure mainly consisting of two principal rooms with verandas all shaded by green trees – has been completely restored. Near the courtyard, a memorial museum dedicated to Soong Ching Ling has also been built. Her white marble statue stands in front of it. All this forms a distinguished contrast with the desolate scene that greeted me on my last trip.

The happiest surprise was to see that the village elder Han Yufeng, who came in the rain from another village to Guluyuan to meet me the last time I was here, was as healthy as before. Though already in his nineties, he still had sharp vision and his handshake was firm and reassuring.

A cousin of Soong Ching Ling, Mr. Han was the only kin of the Soongs still living in Wenchang. He now oversees the Soong residence and acts as a narrator at the museum.

Like his ancestors, the surname of the old man is Han. He is even said to be a descendant of Han Qi, prime minister of the Northern Song Dynasty. Soong Ching Ling's generation would have been the thirtieth generation of the prime minister's descendants. Then suddenly some of the Hans became known as the Soongs. The story behind the change is the stuff that legends are made of.

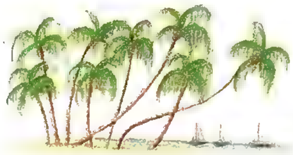
Sweet and refreshing coconuts cost just a little over one yuan each.

This "sea of coconut palms" stretching endlessly in Dongjiao has become a tourist attraction.

Each seafood restaurant by the coconut groves has its own private dock. Narrow bridges bring visitors coming in by boat from Qinglan Harbour right into the restaurants.

It is superb relaxation to lie peacefully on a hammock under coconut trees.

Coconut and sea shell carvings sold at souvenir shops are all produced by the local coconut farmers.



The original name of Soong Ching Ling's father, Soong Yaoru (also Soong Jiashu) or Charlie Soong was Han Jiaozhun. Being the second son of the family he was the elder brother of Han Yufeng's father. For generations the Hans worked on the farm. In his boyhood, Han Jiaozhun and his brothers left the village to look for a living abroad. Later he was adopted as a son by the uncle of his sister-in-law, took his stepfather's family name Soong and was called Soong Jiashu. Upon returning to China, he settled down in Shanghai and gradually became economically and politically illustrious in modern China. His six children including Soong Ching Ling without exception were also well-known figures in twentieth century Chinese history.

On the wall at the main gate of the Soong residence, I discovered a plate written with these words: "When Japanese soldiers entered the village the first time in 1941, they looted and then set fire to houses. They scrawled on this part of the wall 'Home of T.V. Soong' with lime so as to remind themselves to be careful." That time, the Japanese burned down many houses but the flames never reached the Soong residence, an event some interpret as demonstrating the influence of the Soongs both within and outside China.

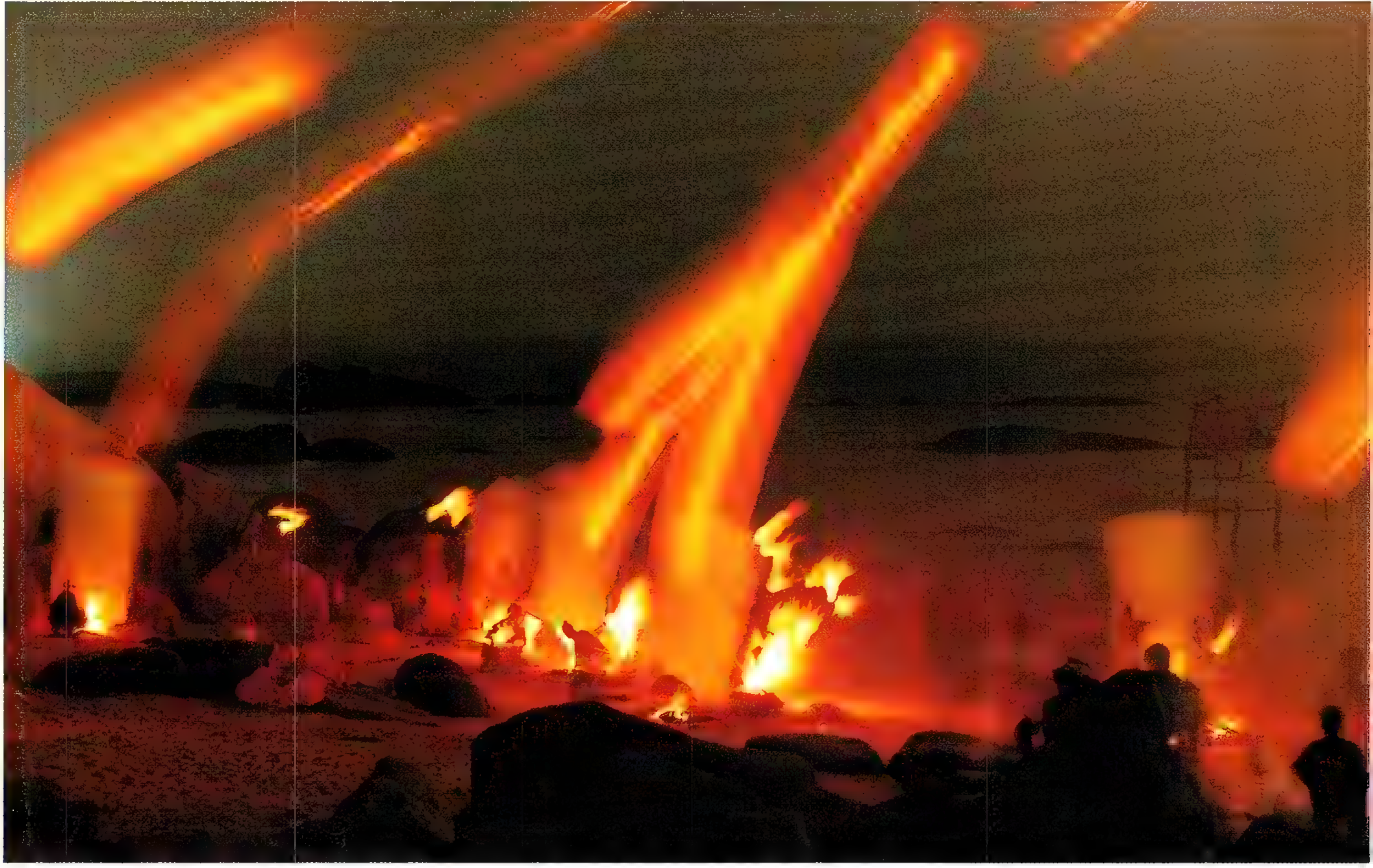
After saying goodbye to Mr. Han, I went to Tonggu Hill or Copper Drum Peak at the eastern end of Hainan Island. The hill is not only the highest point in Wenchang County but also in the eastern part of Hainan. The hill is dotted with grotesquely shaped rocks. From the western slope of the hill, one can get a view of the lush green Wenchang Plain with the most salient features being coconut groves and fishing ports, while from the eastern slope, the green sea waves and vast expanse of sand beaches capture the attention of everybody.

Seabed Forest and Beautiful Qinglan Bay

It is only a half-hour ride from the foot of the Tonggu Hill acros Longlou to the coconut groves slightly south of Dongjiao Town Returning to one of the highlights of my previous journey, I first wen back to Wencheng Town. From there I took a minibus and after travelling for fifteen kilometres, arrived at Qinglan Harbour. I changed to ferry and took the sea route to Dongjiao, the route taken by mos visitors to the coconut groves at Dongjiao. Not surprisingly, there wer a number of passenger speedboats waiting at the harbour. I hired on and immediately dashed across the blue waves.

(Continued on page 107)

Village women socialize by the well. While washing clothes, they sprea news about everything in the village



During the Lantern Festival, people come to the beach to light up lanterns. They use torches to supply hot air into the big and long lanterns which light up the whole sky as a way of praying for a happy life (by Lin Hongping).

Many coconut farmers are also engaged in the fishing business. As the fishing season is approaching, they inspect and maintain their boat sails in preparation for sailing.

Virtually all coconut farmers' houses stand within deep and quiet coconut groves.

In the old mansions hidden within coconut groves at Dongjiao, the furniture also shows its age and antique style.

HOMETOWNS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

Beihai – The Original Pearl of the Orient

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY HUA NIAN

1. *The vast and mighty Beibu Gulf is where the stories of Southern pearls and mermaids are set.*
2. *The set of sculptures entitled "South Pearl Spirit" erected in Beibuwan Square has already become the symbol of Beihai City.*
3. *The unusual design of the Huangdu Grand Hotel is enlivened by a Dong nationality drum tower. The hotel is one of fifty uniquely styled buildings in China (by Hu Yongchang).*
4. *More than 20 kilometres long, Baihutou Silver Beach in Beihai is covered with fine sand.*

2

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In the fishing port, a girl is seen sleeping soundly on a hammock (by Hu Yongchang).

Women in Qiaogang Town are clad in a kind of dress known as "Danjia", a synthesis of Chinese and Vietnamese elements.

People always associate Beihai City with glittering pearls, beautiful beaches, fishing villages with their own local customs, and the legendary "mermaid". Beihai, located in the northeast corner of the Beibu Gulf in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is one of the fourteen coastal cities in China open to foreign tourists as well as the only seaport city in all the autonomous minority nationality regions. Beihai became one of the earliest seaports in China more than 2,000 years ago, and was one of the starting points of the "Silk Road of the Sea".

Clean and Tidy as a New City

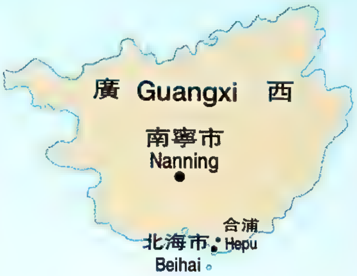
Having boarded the plane in Guangzhou, I found myself two hours later on Beibuwan Boulevard, which is situated in the heart of Beihai City.

A wide thoroughfare, Beibuwan Boulevard runs east and west through the whole city proper, and is lined with well-laid-out blocks of buildings and dotted with some modern structures, giving it the appearance of a newly-built city. Not many vehicles or pedestrians are to be seen on the boulevard; it seems exceptionally quiet, especially when compared with other coastal open cities in China.

Surrounded by the sea on three sides on a peninsula in southern Guangxi, Beihai has an area of 275 square kilometres in its urban district and expands to 3,337 square kilometres when Hepu County is included. Compared with other places, the people of Beihai have an abundance of land, as the total population here is only 1.24 million.

Lying at the mid-point of Beibuwan Boulevard, Beibuwan Square is the centre of the city proper. A grouping of recently finished sculptures entitled "Southern Pearl Spirit" stands within the spacious square. At the centre of the sculptures, an enormous pearl shell fifteen metres in height holds a pearl 1.4

A big feast to celebrate a town elder's birthday is attended by friends and relatives.


廣 Guangxi 西
南寧市
Nanning
合浦
Hepu
北海市
Beihai

Most residents of Qiaogang Town are fishermen living both on land and sea, with the fishing port displaying some Vietnamese influence.

On the seafront of "The Mother-of-Pearl Sea", the landscape seems exceptionally lovely.

metres in diameter, glittering in the sunshine. Around the pearl shell, there is a fountain symbolizing the sea. Three vivid bronze statues represent figures in fairy tales: one is an immortal with a white curly beard riding on a sea horse; another is the "Son of the Sea" riding on a turtle and blowing a conch shell; and the last one is a pearl fairy lying on a strange fish, with her hands holding a pearl. This set of sculptures are considered the symbol of Beihai City, while the pearl epitomizes the history and tradition of Beihai.

Twenty-Kilometre-Long Sea Beach

Tourists coming to Beihai are usually attracted to Baihutou (White Tiger Head) Silver Beach.

Early the next morning, I hurried to the beach. It seems there is no end to it. The sand there is both white and fine; no wonder it is called the "silver beach". More than twenty kilometres long, the beach is said to be larger than the total beach area of Beidaihe, Qingdao and Dadonghai in Hainan Island, and can hold as many as 100,000 people at any one time.

A long row of odd-shaped buildings stand dotted along the beach, some resembling mushrooms, others looking like sailing boats and yet others like hunter's huts. These buildings, I discovered, are restaurants, shower rooms and guesthouses. Obviously, the area adjacent to the beach here has changed a lot, compared with several years ago.

Residents in Qiaogang Keeping Both Chinese and Vietnamese Customs

Just before the peak bathing time at noon, I took a minibus to Qiaogang Town, some four kilometres away from the beach. It is a new satellite town of Beihai. In 1979, large numbers of refugees from Indo-China settled down on the north bank of the Beibu Gulf and this new town was formed.

Wearing the typical cone-shaped Vietnamese hat, most of the women in Qiaogang Town are clad in a kind of short jacket with buttons down the front and with a round neckband; while the men generally wear a military-style hat with a broad brim. I was told how heavy the women's gold bracelets and gold earrings are, how skilfully they embroider the cuddle-seats they use for their babies and how long the girl's "horsetail" plaits are. Such sights are indeed rarely seen in other places.

Most of the buildings in the town are four or five storeys tall. Nearby is a large fishing port where hundreds of fishing boats are berthed. All the fishermen have residences within the town; some of the more prosperous even have villas of their own.

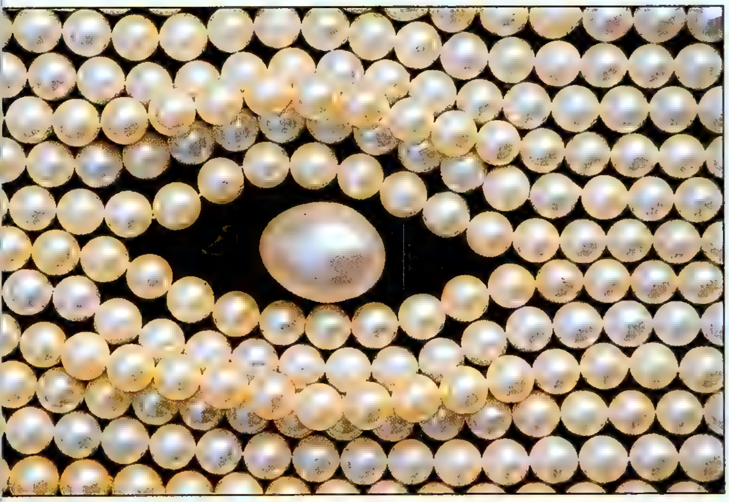
Southern Pearls' Long History Witnessed by Bailong City and Zhumuhai

Diving for pearls in the sea off Beihai and Hepu has been an occupation here for more than 2,000 years. The pearls produced here are particularly fine, hard and smooth, and are regarded as of the finest quality. It is said that "Western pearls (European pearls) are not as fine as Eastern pearls (Japanese pearls), and Eastern pearls are not as fine as Southern pearls (South China Sea pearls)" while "Lian pearls" (Hepu was known as Lianzhou in ancient times) produced in Hepu are considered to be the best of the Southern pearls. The pearls collected by the imperial families in ancient times and now kept in the Imperial Palace are said to be all Southern pearls. The big pearl in the British royal crown came from Hepu.

The ruins of Bailong (White Dragon) City, built for the purpose of supervising the collecting of pearls in ancient times, are to be found at Bailong Village of Yingpanxiang, southeast of Hepu County, which is about fifty kilometres away from Beihai. Today, there are two sections of a rammed-earth wall, in the southern and eastern parts of the village.

The remains of the wall, with one layer of loess rammed down upon another layer of shells, can still be clearly seen. The layer of oyster shells is said to be at least three metres in

With more than 600 years of history, all that remains of the old Bailong City are some town-wall bricks sandwiched between the roots of this banyan tree and dilapidated foundations of buildings.



This large pearl in the centre lay in the sea for more than ten years. Its value is put at over one million yuan.

A house built on posts rests above the sea waters of the pearl-breeding base in Hepu (by Hu Yongchang).

The 333-hectare red forest on Yingluogang seabeach is said to be the second largest "seabed forest" in the world.

thickness, with the wall itself extending over half a kilometre to the sea front. It is thus evident that the collecting of pearls must have been a very prosperous industry in ancient times.

With more than 600 years of history, this deserted ancient town has nothing surviving but sections of the wall and several old dilapidated building foundations sandwiched between the roots of a banyan tree in the vicinity of Bailong Village. The area of blue sea opposite to Bailong City once dubbed "The Mother-of-Pearl Sea" or Zhumuhai in Chinese — an area joining together seven pearl-breeding streches of water — has nowadays become a cultured pearl-breeding base.

The Ever-Growing "Seabed Forest"

Travelling seventy kilometres east from Bailong City brings one to Yingluogang seabeach via Shankou Town in Hepu, where the world's second largest seabed forest is located.

Standing on the shore, I could see the low lying beach, covered with a luxuriant forest growth. When the tide comes in, the sea covers the tree trunks, with only the foliage of the trees still visible. This vast stretch of forest, covering a total area of over 333 hectares, is known as a red forest, because of the species of trees there.

A cracking sound is often heard amid the trees there. Looking carefully, I saw a little tree drop with a cracking sound. As it turned out, this is the tree's unusual means of reproduction. When a little tree separates from its parent tree and takes root in the sand, the forest has thus added another tree to its number.

Hepu, an Ancient Town with Many Historical Sites

Beihai City by all appearances is a modern city. After my visit there, I then went to Hepu where I was impressed by its classic elegance.

Hepu County Seat, some 27 kilometres from Beihai City, became Hepu Port, a starting-point of the Silk Road of the Sea, as early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24.). It is worth visiting the many historical sites of the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties there.

On my way back from the red forest, I made a small detour and went to Yong'an Village within Shankou Town to visit the Dashi (Big Scholar) Pavilion, which was built during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and renovated during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In Hepu County Seat, I also visited Haijiao (Sea Corner) Pavilion combining northern Chinese and local architecture, Wenchang Pagoda, Dongpo Pavilion and Dongpo Well. The last two were specially built to commemorate Su Dongpo (1037-1101), a famous Northern Song Dynasty scholar who had once travelled to Hepu.

Hui'ai Bridge is particularly worth mentioning because of its unusual architecture. It was built in 1909, the first year of the reign of Emperor Xuantong in the Qing Dynasty. Made entirely of wood the bridge has no pier and is supported on the two banks only by four beams which form two triangles. The span of the bridge's arch is twenty-six metres. It is still being used today!

Translated by Chen Hansheng

At the end of Hui'ai Bridge, many old shops are in close orderly rows along the old street. The famous Hepu fireworks are made here.

The statue in the central square of Hepu County Seat portrays two unique treasures produced in Hepu's waters: the Southern pearl and the legendary "mermaid".

Hui'ai Bridge in Hepu County Seat made entirely of wood offers unusual architecture.

These old men who make their living by carrying passengers and cargo on their boats enjoy Shaoxing rice wine when taking a rest from work (by Pan Honghai).

詩書處世
存忠孝心
行仁義事
忠孝持家

Shaoxing is a town with a rich cultural heritage. Chinese calligraphy, traditional paintings, scrolls and flower vases which suggest an air of learning and culture are commonly seen in people's homes (by Peng Zhenge).

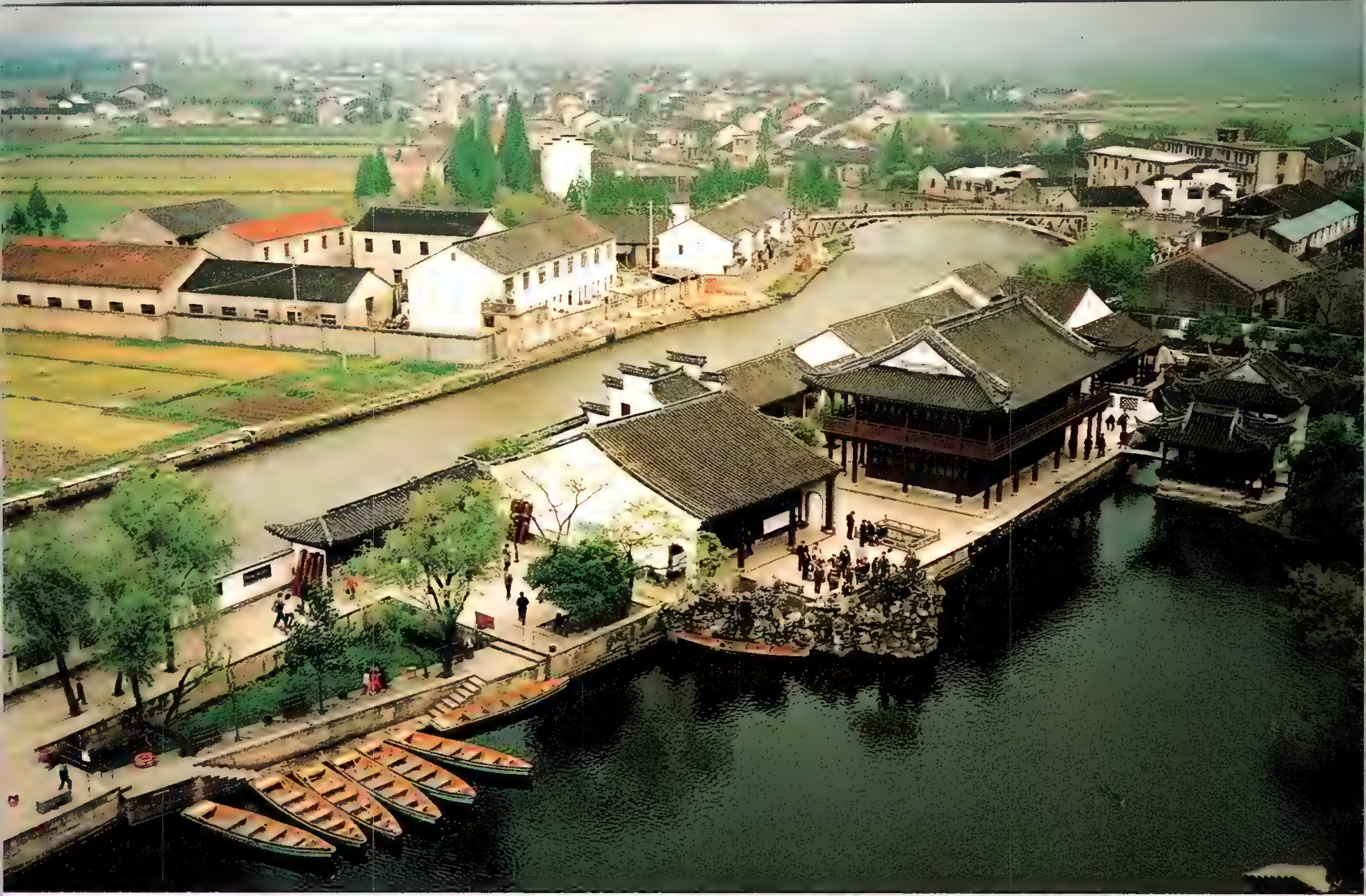
People living near rivers like to raise ducks. The way children and ducks enjoy each other's company underscores their close relationship (by Ren Jing).

HOMETOWNS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

Shaoxing: A Waterside City with Ancient Atmosphere

ARTICLE BY ZHONG LIU

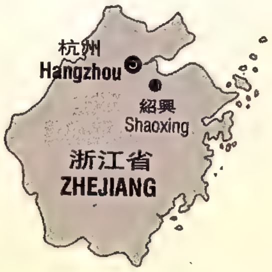
In the morning sun, the arched bridge looks ancient and elegant (by Ren Jing).



A bird's-eye view of Shaoxing City brings to the eye green fields and canals lined by white-walled traditional houses with black-tiled roofs. The vie reminds one of a chess board, creating a scene typical of the region south of the Yangtse River (by Zhao Wei).

Shaoxing is abundant in water resources and fish ponds and fish farms are plentiful (by Qu Yongkang).

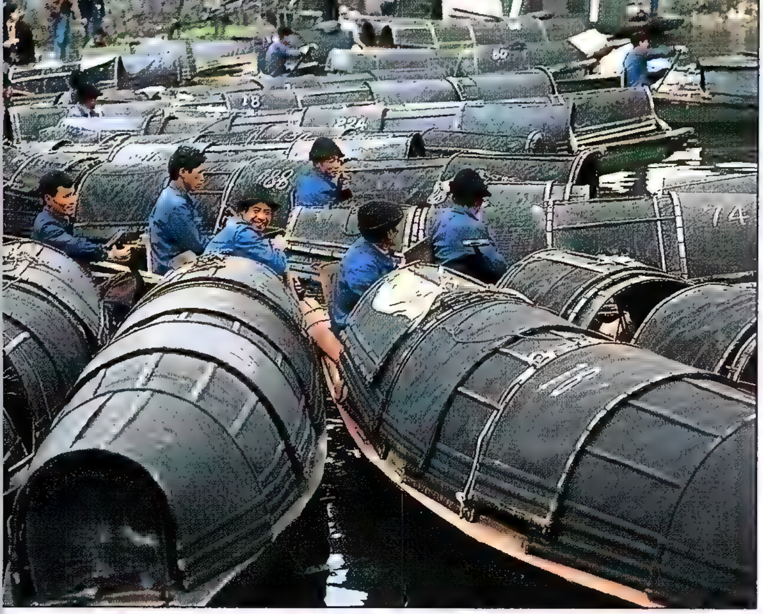
In addition to white-walled and black-tiled stone houses, wooden towers like this are another form of traditional structure in Shaoxing, though the decorations hung on the old houses are certainly modern and trendy (by Qu Yongkang).



Located 67 kilometres southeast of Hangzhou and on the Hangzhou-Ningbo Railway line in northern Zhejiang Province, Shaoxing is one of China's twenty-four famous cities of culture. Signs of its 2,500-year history since its days as the State of Yue's capital can be seen in the countless scenic spots and historical sites in the environs of the city. In a region of rivers and lakes south of the Yangtse, it is rich in local colour and its scenery is enchanting.

One morning in spring, I headed for Shaoxing in a misty rain. On the way, looking out of the window through the drizzle, I could see the dim rolling hills, green fields, stretches of yellow rape flowers, intersecting networks of rivers and canals and scattered fish ponds.

In Shaoxing, glistening waterways seem to radiate in all directions. The number of these small canals is nearly equal to that of the streets. The most convenient yet enjoyable way to visit the scenic spots and historical



These small black awning boats are popular in Shaoxing (by Ren Jing).

The wine Shaoxing people like best is undoubtedly the local rice wine whose reputation has spread way beyond the city. It is no wonder that there are many inns and wine shops in Shaoxing (by Yang Libo).

sites in the city is to go by boats covered with black bamboo awnings — a means of transport unique to Shaoxing.

Such a boat is typically about four metres ong with a semi-spherical awning made of bamboo and bamboo leaves. The boat is easy to cover and uncover, and the awning can be adjusted forward and backward for passenger comfort. Seeing that I was securely seated, the boatman began to operate the boat by pedal, a style peculiar to Shaoxing and quite different from the usual way of paddling in other areas. His forceful pedalling started the boat and the oars in his hands now served as the helm. This unusual propulsion earned this type of craft the name "pedal boat" by the local people.

The boat sailed slowly along the quiet and wide river. Through the thin fog on the river, I saw on both banks residential houses most of which were built with black-tiled roofs and white-washed walls, and in front of which lay a road paved with black slabstones. There were steps from the residential area reaching the river for people to fetch water.

With a slight turn of the oar by the boatman, the boat entered into another waterway, which bordered the rear of residential houses nstead of a stone-paved road. Soon I found my boat sailing under an arched stone bridge. In front was another bridge whose shape resembled the Chinese character for "eight" (八). It was the famous Bazi (the character Eight) Bridge built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). With over 5,000 stone bridges, Shaoxing has also been known as the "Home of Bridges" since ancient times.

Lu Xun Road

After boating round half the city, the boat pulled up at Nanjie Street in the southeastern part of Shaoxing. Pointing to a place on the bank, the boatman told me that it was the famous Shenyuan Garden.

The Shenyuan Garden is the setting for an episode in a sad love story of a famous Southern Song poet Lu You (1125-1210) and his ex-wife. Once when visiting this garden, Lu You unexpectedly met his ex-wife Tang Wan, who was his cousin and had been divorced by Lu You unwillingly because his mother disliked Tang Wan. The chance encounter revived the true love within the hearts of Lu You and Tang Wan. After Tang Wan left, Lu You composed and inscribed a lyric on a wall of the garden, giving expression to his deep regret and helplessness.

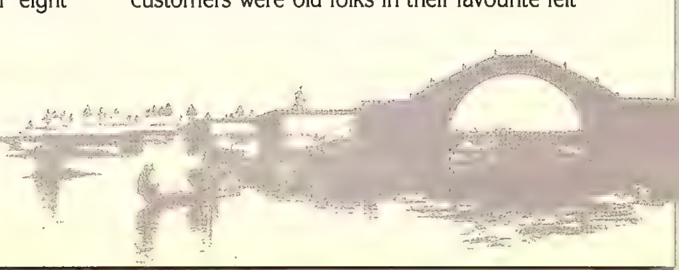
I got off the boat and went into the Shenyuan Garden. There I saw a beautiful scene created by the harmonious combination of bridges, streams, rockeries and green trees. The place was very tranquil. Unfortunately the inscription of Lu You's lyric was no longer there.

Less than half a kilometre west to Shenyuan Garden is Lu Xun Road, on which stands the house where Lu Xun (1881-1936), China's most important twentieth century writer, spent his childhood and adolescence. In addition, Sanweishuwu (Three Flavour Study), a one-storey house, was once the private school Lu Xun attended between the ages of thirteen and seventeen. In the northeastern corner of the study I saw a desk with the Chinese character "early" (早) carved on the surface. Neat though a bit childish, it was Lu Xun's own writing and carving as a motto after being punished by the teacher for once being late for class.

Leaving the Three Flavour Study, I walked west and soon found a large mansion in Shaoxing's traditional style. This is Xintaimen, Lu Xun's former residence as well as his birthplace. Built in the late 18th century, the structure has a history of more than 200 years. As in other mansions, there are such articles of daily use still preserved such as hardwood furniture including a square table for eight people, chairs and tea tables, all arranged in their original position. Baicaoyuan (Hundred Grass Garden) where Lu Xun enjoyed himself in his childhood is in the northern part of the residence. Although in one of his writings, he describes such happy activities in his childhood in the garden as catching crickets, playing with blister beetles and looking for the tubers of multiflower knotweed, the garden was at that time basically unkept. The green vegetable beds, tall Chinese honey locust trees and purple-red mulberries which now grace the garden did not exist in Lu Xun's time.

Diagonally opposite to Lu Xun's former residence on the same street, there is the old style Xianheng Wineshop. It is named after the wineshop described in Lu Xun's short story *Kong Yiji,* where his character Kong Yiji, a down-and-out man of letters often went to drink on credit. There used to actually be a Xianheng Wineshop near the new one. It was set up in the 1890's. Wineshops like this were very popular at that time and the labouring people would go there to have some wine with some snacks, and chat. Several years later, the former Xianheng Wineshop closed down and the building was razed during the mid-twentieth century. The present Xianheng Wineshop was built a decade ago and later was extended into a two-storey building to meet booming demand. Entering the shop, I saw a wooden counter where wine was sold. On the counter there was a large earthenware wine jar, from which the shop assistant was busy dispensing wine with bamboo scoops to serve customers.

The layout of the wineshop was true to the description in Lu Xun's story. The wooden tables and benches were old. Most of the customers were old folks in their favourite felt



In the homes of Shaoxing, even the cooking stoves in kitchens bear elegant decorations (by Wang Miao).

This carving on the wall serves as an introduction to the ancient architectural elegance of the Hall of the King of Yue (by Wang Miao).

▲ After nightfall, few people can be seen in the streets. Occasionally tricycles drive by while the Monument of Qiu Jin on Jiefang Road stands as a solitary sentinel (by Pan Honghai).

◀ The most convenient means of transportation for a tour of the water city of Shaoxing is the black awning boat (by Wang Miao).

hats. They chewed beans flavoured with aniseed, and salted peanuts to go with the local Shaoxing wine made from glutinous rice and water from the Jianhu Lake.

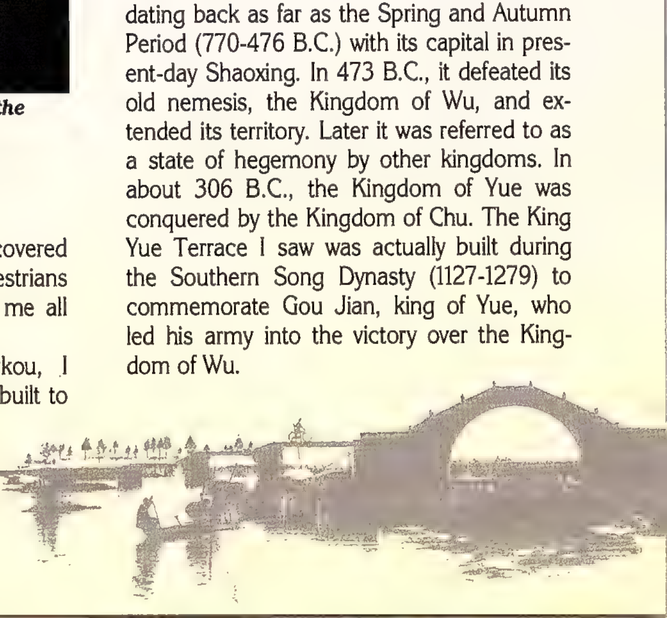
I had some aniseed-flavoured beans and limited my imbibing to just a mouthful of Shaoxing Wine lest I should get drunk. Then I went out and sauntered down Lu Xun Road, which was full of hanging shop signs, towards Jiefang Road. It was getting dark, and the wide and straight road seemed to be covered with a thin veil. The occasional pedestrians and pedicabs coming or passing by me all seemed to be a bit hazy.

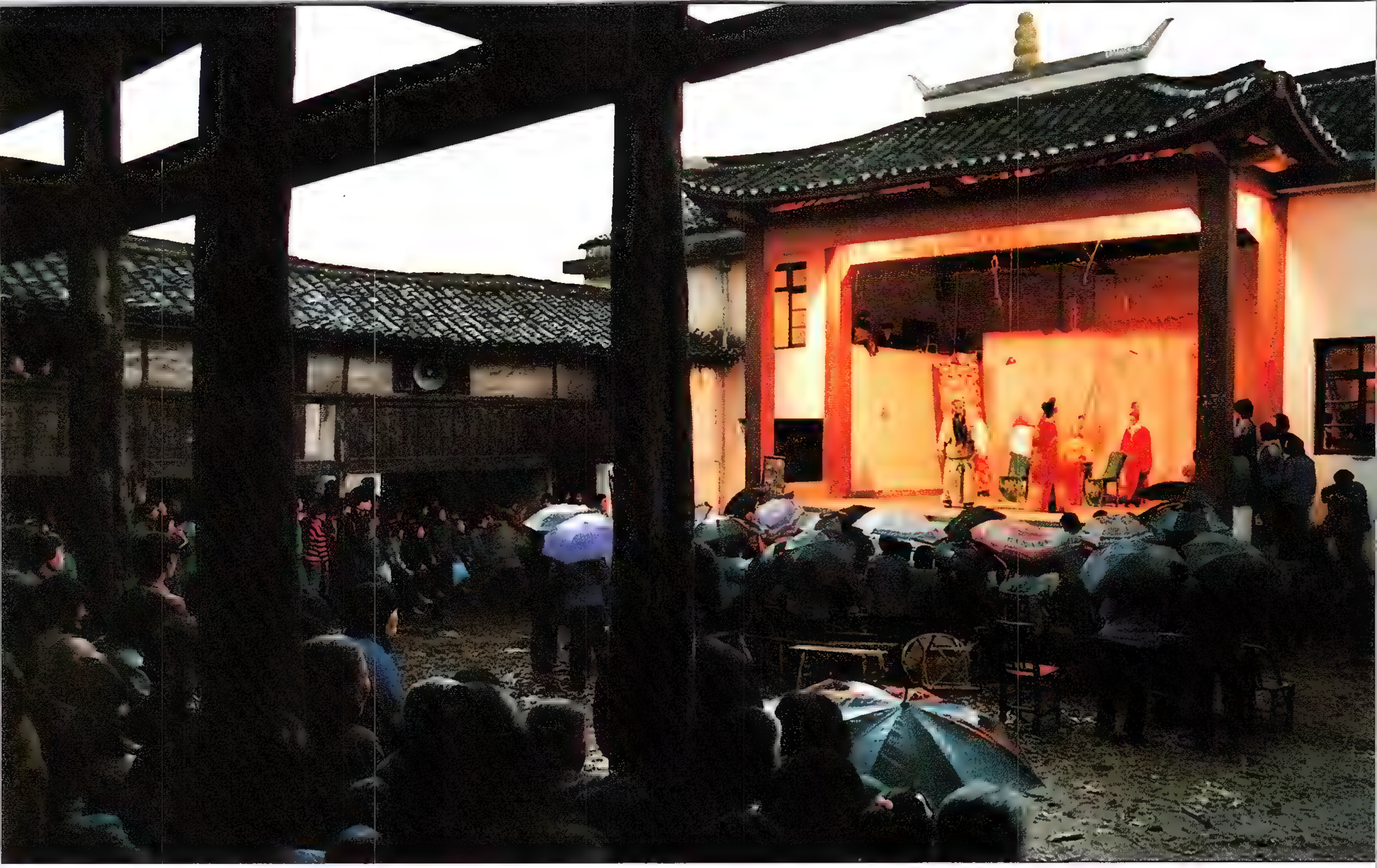
Then when I reached Xuantingkou, I noticed a towering monument. It was built to commemorate the late Qing revolutionary martyr Qiu Jin (1879-1907), who gave up her married life to study in Japan, where she took an active part in the revolutionary activities among the Chinese students. Two years later, she returned to China to wage an uprising against the Qing government. When the uprising failed, she was executed at the very place where the monument now stands.

Tracing Historical Sites in Fushan Hill

I put up for the night at the Shaoxing Hotel at the foot of Fushan Hill within the city proper. When I woke up, dawn was just breaking. I got ready to climb Fushan Hill which I saw outside the hotel windows.

I scaled the hill from the eastern slope, where there is a terrace called King Yue Terrace. Yue is the name of an ancient kingdom dating back as far as the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) with its capital in present-day Shaoxing. In 473 B.C., it defeated its old nemesis, the Kingdom of Wu, and extended its territory. Later it was referred to as a state of hegemony by other kingdoms. In about 306 B.C., the Kingdom of Yue was conquered by the Kingdom of Chu. The King Yue Terrace I saw was actually built during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) to commemorate Gou Jian, king of Yue, who led his army into the victory over the Kingdom of Wu.





Protected by umbrellas, people do not mind staying in the rain to watch the performance. Nothing shows better than braving the elements Shaoxin people's love for traditional operas (by Pan Honghai).

Though crudely furnished, the teahouses in Shaoxing are frequented by the locals (by Ren Jing).

Early every morning, budding calligraphers gather in the Shaoxing Children's Park to practise their strokes (by Chen Xin).

On the terrace there is a bamboo pavilion, inside which there are two plant fossils. One is the fossil of a cypress, the other, a pine. These two fossils make the terrace appear much older.

Climbing on from the terrace, I arrived at King Yue Hall which was located half way up the hill. The hall was palatially decorated with carved windows and painted walls. In the hall, there were portraits of King Gou Jian and his two outstanding senior officials Wen Zhong and Fan Li.

Descending Fushan Hill, I went to visit the famous Lanting (Orchid Pavilion) at the foot of Lanzhu Hill fourteen kilometres from southwestern Shaoxing, the construction of which is documented by calligrapher Wang Xizhi (321-379). The present structure was built in 1548 and renovated in 1980. The pedal boat sailed out of the city from a side city gate into the shimmering mirror-like Jianhu Lake, which bordered on a vast stretch of rice paddies. The rice seedlings seemed to be growing on the vast surface of the lake.

The boat docked at the foot of Lanzhu Hill. I got on shore and spied pavilions and other ancient buildings hidden among thick woods and tall bamboos. An ancient garden, Lanting Pavilion, centres around Liushang

he strange-looking rocks in Keyan rise straight from the ground in the middle of groups f houses and farmland, creating a wonderful sight (by Wang Miao).

A group of Japanese visitors gather by the stream at the Orchid Pavilion to recreate the fun of composing poems as Wang Xizhi and his fellow literati once did (by Ren Jing).

Floating Wine Cup) Pavilion, with Echi Goose Pond) and Qushui (Curved Stream) in ront, Yubei (Imperial Tablet) Pavilion at the ack, and on two sides Lesser Orchid Pavilion nd Youjun Temple. Youjun is another name f Wang Xizhi.

I walked along a curved path with coblestones arranged in patterns through thick roves of bamboo, and saw a pond, on which ome white geese were frolicking. In the pailion by the pond there is a stone tablet ngraved with two Chinese characters "E Chi" Goose Pond), which are obviously different rom each other in style. An interesting story oes that one day during the Eastern Jin ynasty (317-420), Wang Xizhi had just finshed writing "E" (Goose) when he suddenly eard that an imperial edict was delivered to im. He hastily dropped his writing brush to neel down to receive the document. Meanhile his son Wang Xianzhi, also a master calgrapher, took up the brush to finish the incription by writing "Chi" (Pond), thus the two haracters, one with thick strokes and the ther with thinner strokes, form a delightful ontrast.

Crossing the bridge with three arches panning the pond, I walked along a shady ath, which led me to the Floating Wine Cup avilion, an old structure built of timber. On he slope in front of the pavilion, the branches f willows and peach trees swayed in the reeze, and a small stream wound its way hrough to Lesser Orchid Pavilion. The stream as the scene of one of the most famous pisodes in the history of Chinese literature. uring the third lunar month in the year 353 ang Xizhi gathered 41 of his fellow poets nd men of letters to sit by the stream. They ommenced playing the following game: a ine cup was set afloat down the stream. The erson the cup stopped in front of was to rite a poem; those who forfeited and failed o write a poem after this selection were ade to drink as a penalty.

East Lake — A Huge Potted Landscape

East Lake is about seven kilometres east of the city of Shaoxing. It has been described as a "huge potted landscape". When I got there, I saw scenery with many Chinese ilexes, peach trees and willows. The man-made causeway constructed in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) separated the river outside from the lake inside. There once was a black stone hill in this place. According to legend, when Qin Shihuang (259-210 B.C.) made an inspection tour to Kuaiji (ancient name of Shaoxing), he had his carriage pulled up here and allowed his horses to feed. The lake was to serve as a quarry site since the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220). During the Sui Dynasty (581-618) when Yang Qin, Duke of Yue, built a city of stone buildings on the site of Shaoxing, the scale of quarrying became even larger. With the passage of time, springs welled up and coupled with the inflow of river water to form a deep pool which later became the present East Lake.

A closer observation of the scenery made me better understand the term "huge potted landscape". Like the art of Chinese potted landscape, here the scenery centres on the rock, plants and water, making good use of the sheer cliffs hewn during the quarry exploitation. A glimpse of the scenery gives one the impression that it is both man-made and natural.

I embarked on a black awning boat on the west bank. The boat detoured round Bijia (Penholder) Hill and arrived at Taogong Cave, where I disembarked. Inside the cave I felt a bit chilly. Looking up I found the cave was like a rounded cone with a small opening at its top. I seemed to be looking at the sky from the bottom of a well.

Then the boat sailed on to Keyan, which was twelve kilometres west of the city of Shaoxing. Keyan once was the site of a black stone hill. Though not very tall, formerly there were many rocks in unusual shapes, for which it was famous. Since the Sui Dynasty (581-618), it has also been quarried. The continuous extraction of stone from the hill has formed the grotesque cliff in Keyan, which stands as a weather-beaten background for the adjoining village and fields.

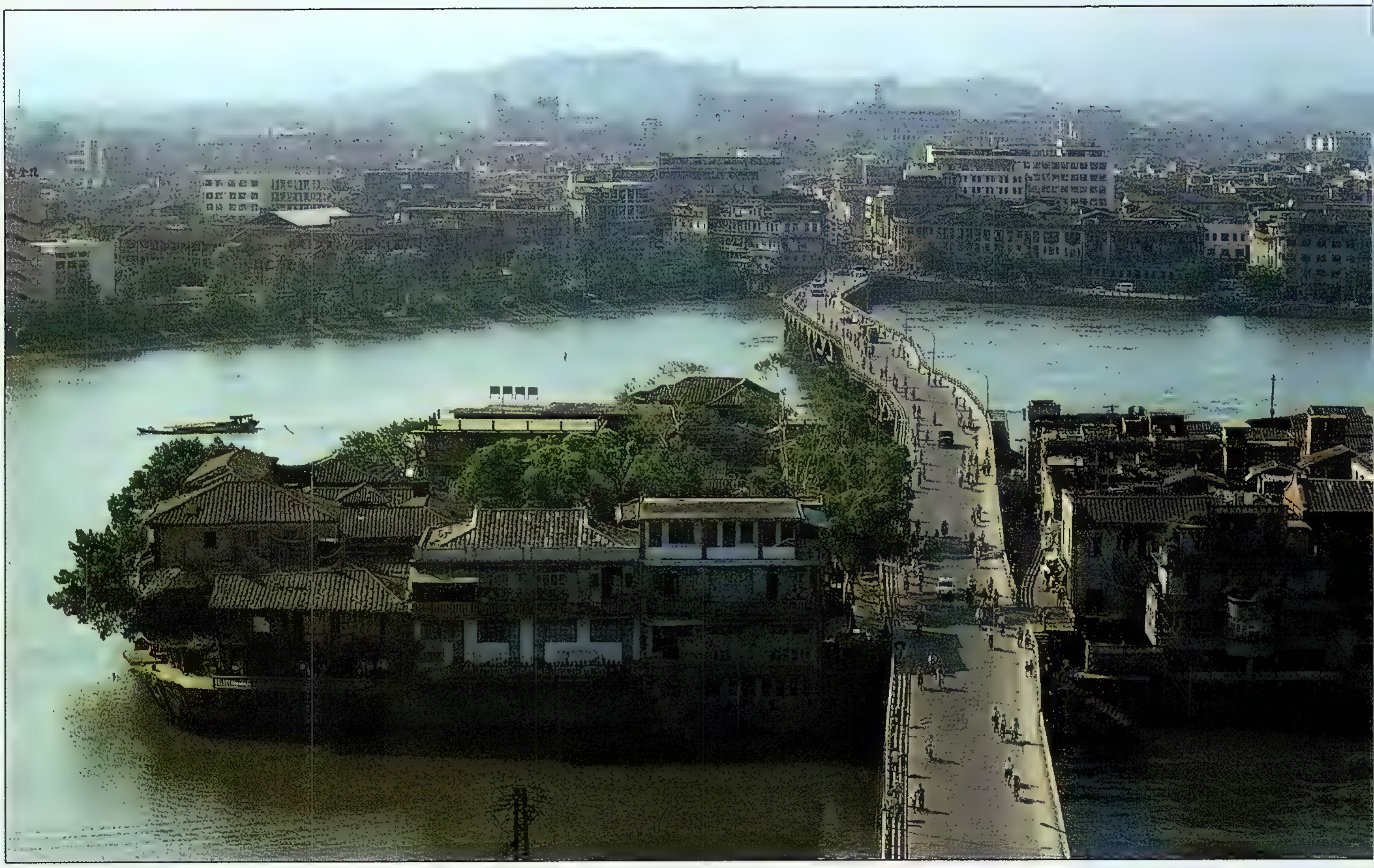
About 1.5 kilometres from Keyan is a town called Keqiao, which is best known for its production of the famous Shaoxing Wine. Also called Shaoxing Yellow Wine, it is one of the most famous alcoholic beverages in China. Shaoxing Wine is made of glutinous rice, high quality wheat and pure lake water from Jianhu Lake. The usual alcohol content of Shaoxing Wine is no less than 15%.

I traversed narrow lanes and found that, similar to Shaoxing, there were many small teahouses in Keqiao. The layout of the poorly-furnished teahouses was usually with some rectangular tables and benches against both walls leaving a large passage in the middle.

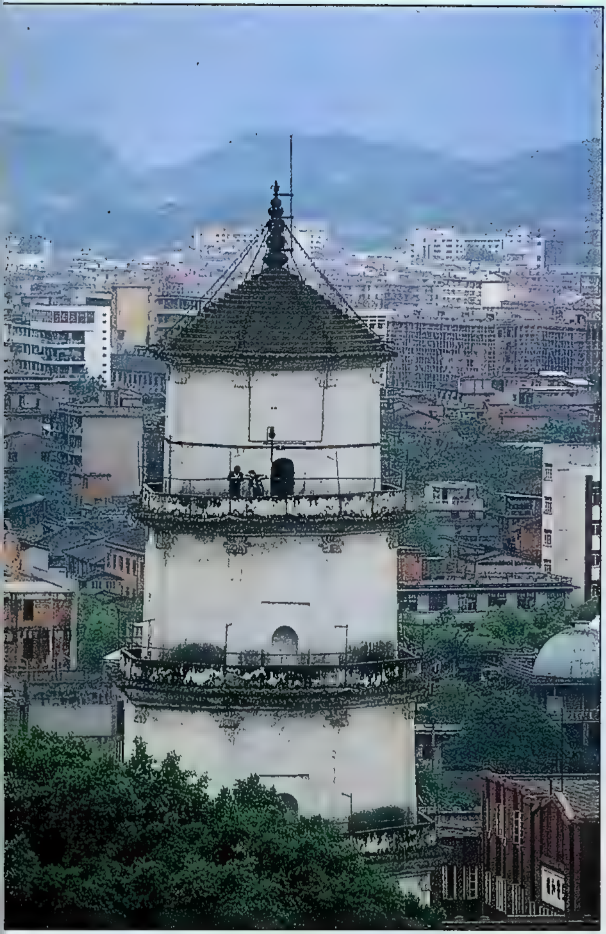
When I passed by a courtyard, I heard the boisterous sound of laughter, applause and acclaim. Out of curiosity, I entered the courtyard and saw a crowd holding umbrellas. They were attentively watching a village theatrical performance. On the stage, several actors in theatrical costumes were singing, reciting dialogue and acting, which evoked joyful laughter from the villagers. Obviously, the performance was a comedy.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Fujian is perhaps best known as the home of tea, with Wuyi Big Red Robe (a kind of green tea), Anxi Ti Kuan Yin (a variety of Oolong tea) and Fuzhou jasmine tea having an outstanding reputation. In addition, the Congou tea ritual performed by girls can be seen in the teahouse.



The long Minjiang River flowing past Fuzhou City has brought prosperity to Fuzhou's people (by Hua Xiaorui).

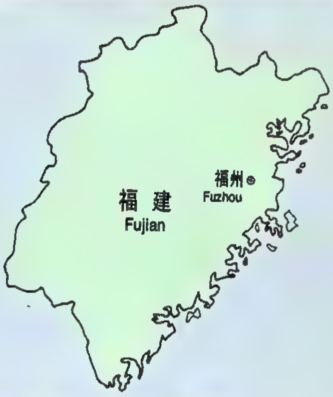


HOMETOWNS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

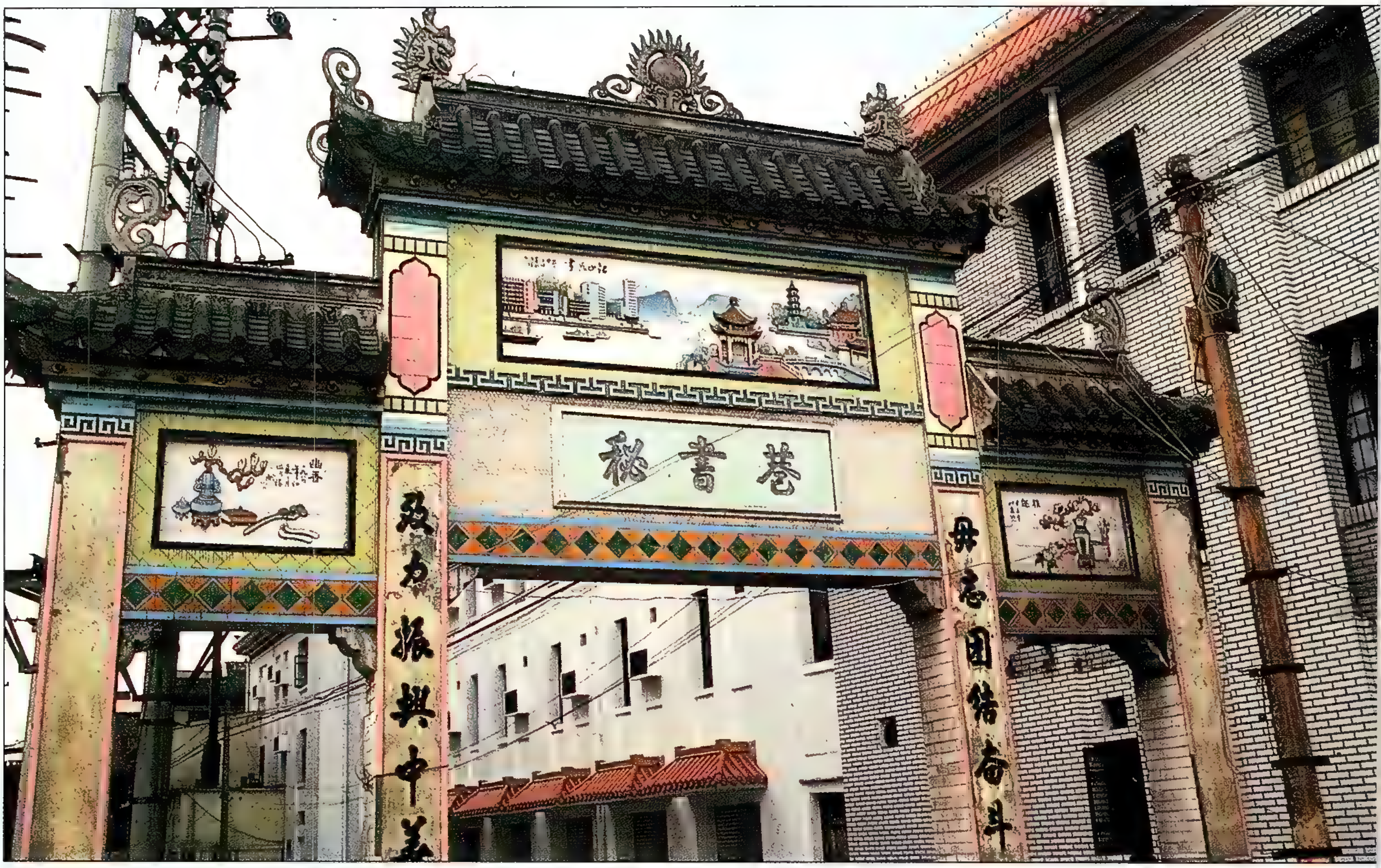
Enjoying Life in Fuzhou

PHOTOS BY MA YIU CHUN
ARTICLE BY ZHANG WU

In Fuzhou city, there are three mountains, the Yushan Mountain, the Wushan Mountain and the Pingshan Mountain, and two pagodas, the White Pagoda and the Black Pagoda. The octagonal White Pagoda on Yushan Mountain has seven floors and was first set up in 904 during the Tang Dynasty and rebuilt in 1548 during the Ming Dynasty after a fire. It is one of the symbols of this famous historical city.



nder the shade of banyan trees on the street, the old people are attentively singing Fujian opera arias. They are recalling their youth while amusing hemselves.



The old buildings are all gone in this Secretary Alley, with only this ancient memorial archway left.

Located on the southeast coast at the lower reaches of the Minjiang River, Fuzhou has been the capital of Fujian Province since ancient times.

This ancient cultural city, with a history of more than 2,200 years, was initially called "Ye City" (Smelting City). Fuzhou received its present name in 725 during the Tang Dynasty, due to the fact that a mountain named Fu with its shape looking like a huge Chinese character "fu" (happiness), was then found in the northwest of the city.

Opening to Foreign Countries Early On

Fuzhou has a mild climate and rich resources. Thanks to its southern location, it was an ideal place for Han people from the north to avoid chaos caused by wars of dynastic succession. Meanwhile, it became an important seaport linking the continent with foreign countries from as early the beginning of the first century. After 1840, Fuzhou was chosen to be one of the five trading ports and in recent years, Fuzhou has once again become one of the China's first group of coastal cities open to direct commerce with foreign countries.

It is because Fuzhou people were among the first to be influenced by their contacts of long standing with foreign countries that the city's residents are well known for their acumen, with the spirit of developing new endeavours and exploring different areas. They are not afraid of competing and taking risks. Meanwhile, they also value the profound cultural heritage of their hometown. Therefore, the modern trends and the traditional attitudes coexist here. The people of Fuzhou, who enjoy life, maintain their traditional cultural customs while pursung success in the modern material world.

New Buildings Contrast with "Paper-Stuck" Old City

Since the 1950's, Fuzhou had been slow in municipal constructio for nearly thirty years, with a large number of narrow streets and ol lanes as well as wooden-walled houses with paper pasted on the inne side seen everywhere, earning the city the nickname "paper-stuc Fuzhou". It was not until the middle of the 1980's that the people o Fuzhou started to reconstruct the older areas of the city on a larg scale. Recently, foreign funds have been introduced to develop vas stretches of land. Now new roads and avenues have opened up and attractive modern buildings are being built one after another, with th modernization being accented by the flow of the vehicles on th flyovers.

Along the north bank of the Minjiang River, there used to be a dilapidated area of shacks. In order to rebuild it into Yuanhong Town wit multi-storey buildings during the necessary preliminary relocation thousands of households took only four days to move out of this area Meanwhile, the fishermen who once lived on the Minjiang River have lef their boats to settle down on shore.

The Quaint Charm of the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys

Driven by the new architecture, the people of Fuzhou are faced wit a problem of how to maintain the features of this well-known historica city. The location referred to as the "three lanes and seven alleys" in th old city is where many of the ancient residences are preserved. Th tourists coming to Fuzhou are therefore attracted to it. The "thre lanes" are Guanglu (Light Emolument) Lane, Wenru (Literary Scholar Lane and Yijin (Clothes Brocade) Lane. The so-called seven alleys ar

Quite a number of ancient porcelain pieces and famous paintings can be seen displayed in Fuzhou's "Antique Street". Those who know the value of antiques can eventually obtain several items of value (by Lin Xiaoyu).

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Though karaoke and disco halls can be seen everywhere throughout the city, the old generation in Fuzhou is still intoxicated with the traditional art of story-telling.

Jibi (Fortune Shelter) Alley, Gong (Palace) Alley, Ta (Tower) Alley, Anmin (Settling People) Alley, Huang (Yellow) Alley, Langguan (Male Official) Alley and Yangqiao (Poplar Bridge) Alley. Among these lanes and alleys, many old buildings with whitewashed walls and blue tiles dating from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) eras can be seen. High and solid as the outside walls are, the doors are simple and elegant in their design, whereas the inner part of the courtyards is seen layer upon layer, thus making people feel quiet, comfortable and happy, and adding an archaic charm to the locale.

Nanhou Street, which threads its way through the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys, is the site of Fuzhou's famous Lantern Fair. Every year at the time of the Lantern Festival, this street with its fireworks, laughter and a sea of lanterns seems to be the very source of the whole city's jubilation.

Expensive Lucky Telephone Numbers

However, the wheels of history have been undoubtedly pulled into the information era. Due to the fact that the life of the local people is increasingly fast-paced with people in business having frequent contacts with overseas countries, the telephone has become the most accepted as well as the swiftest means of communication. Consequently, telephone numbers in Fuzhou have been increased from four to six digits, among which more than 90 per cent of the telephones are private ones.

The Fuzhou Telecommunications Bureau has taken advantage of this opportunity to auction a group of telephone numbers symbolic of good luck and fortune, some of which were even purchased at incredible cost, some 5,000 yuan higher than that of ordinary telephone numbers.

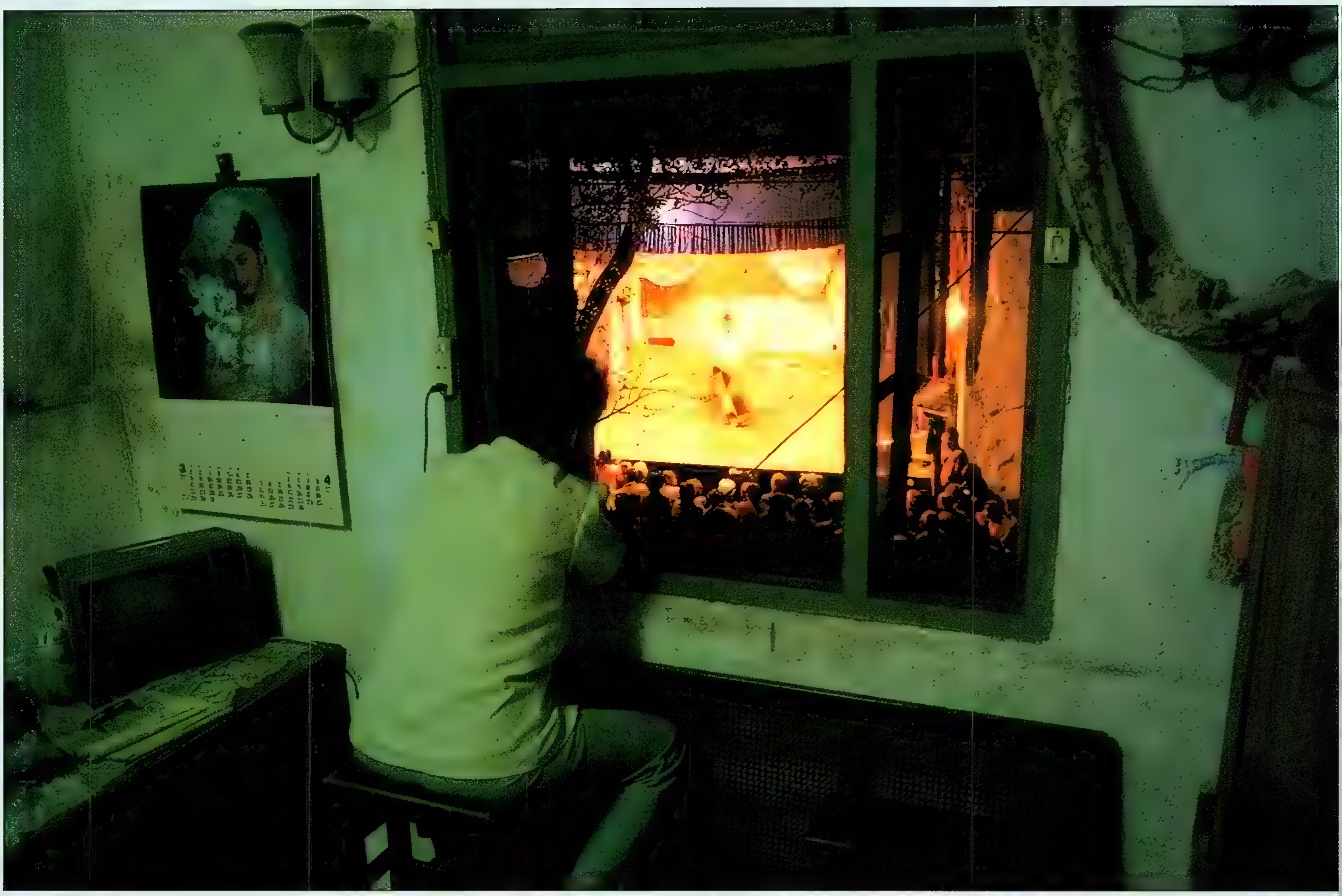
Jewellery Epitomizes New Fashion

In Fuzhou, young people following new fashions are often seen wearing gold, pearls and other jewels in the street. All kinds of jewellery, including that made of gold, platinum, gold inlay, pearls, diamonds and other precious stones, jade and more have sold well in Fuzhou.

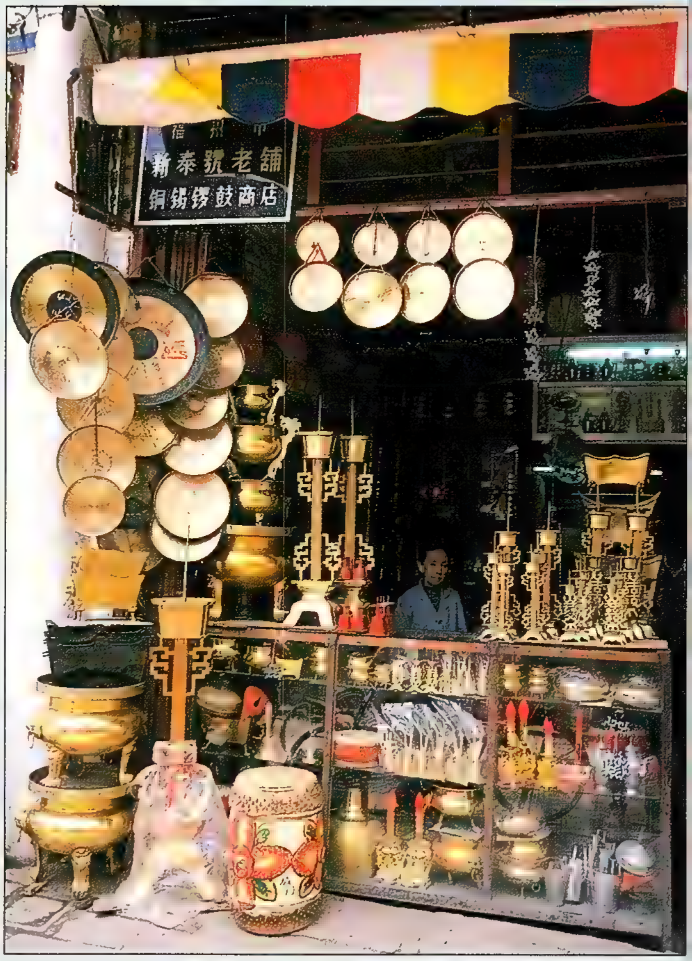
As a result of the popularity of jewellery, a "Jewellery Town" market was established last May. At present, there are six enterprises with 1,300 staff members in the market, with the yearly output value reaching US$100 million, accounting for more than one-third of China's total export amount of jewellery.

Pets Becoming Popular and "Magpie Bridge" Matchmaking

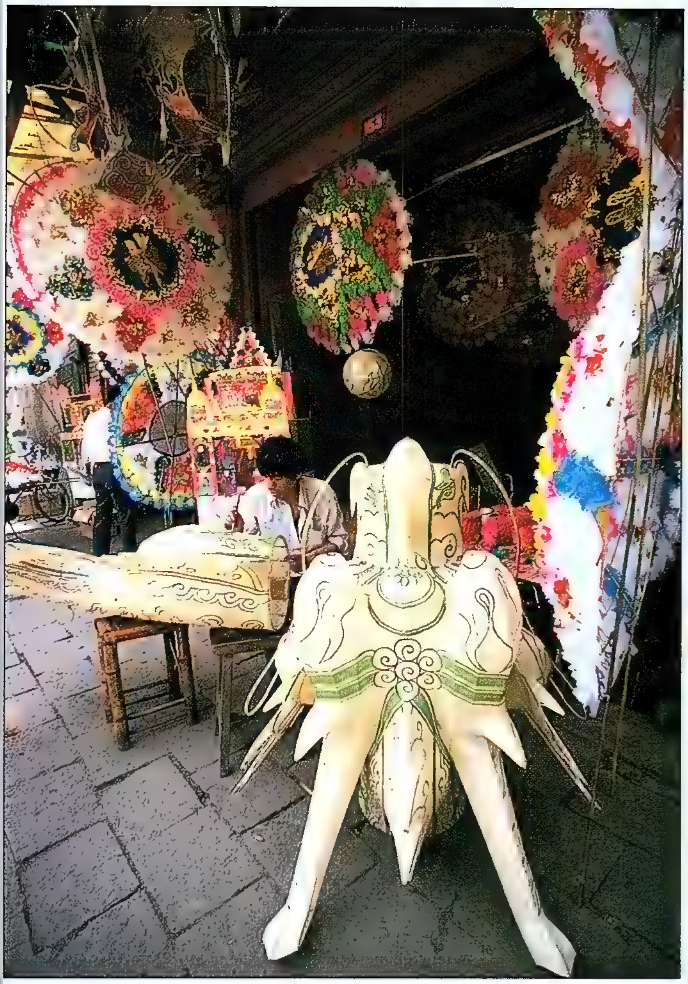
In the past, flowers, birds, insects and fish were kept for the pleasure of high officials, noble lords and men of letters. However, these erstwhile pleasures of the rich have now come into the homes of ordinary people in Fuzhou. The flower and bird market, located on Liuyi Central Road in Taijiang, has a floor area of more than 30,000 square metres, with two trading corridors, more than 70 shops and hundreds of movable stalls. In this market, a great variety of fresh flowers, miniature trees and rockery and root sculptures are available. Thrushes, mynas, parrots



It may be more leisurely and carefree to sit before the windows of their own houses to watch Fujian opera performed in the street than to sit in the box of a big theatre.



Approaching the teahouse, an old shop in Handicraft Industry Street, one almost seems to hear the dim sounds of the gongs and drums of the late Qing Dynasty.



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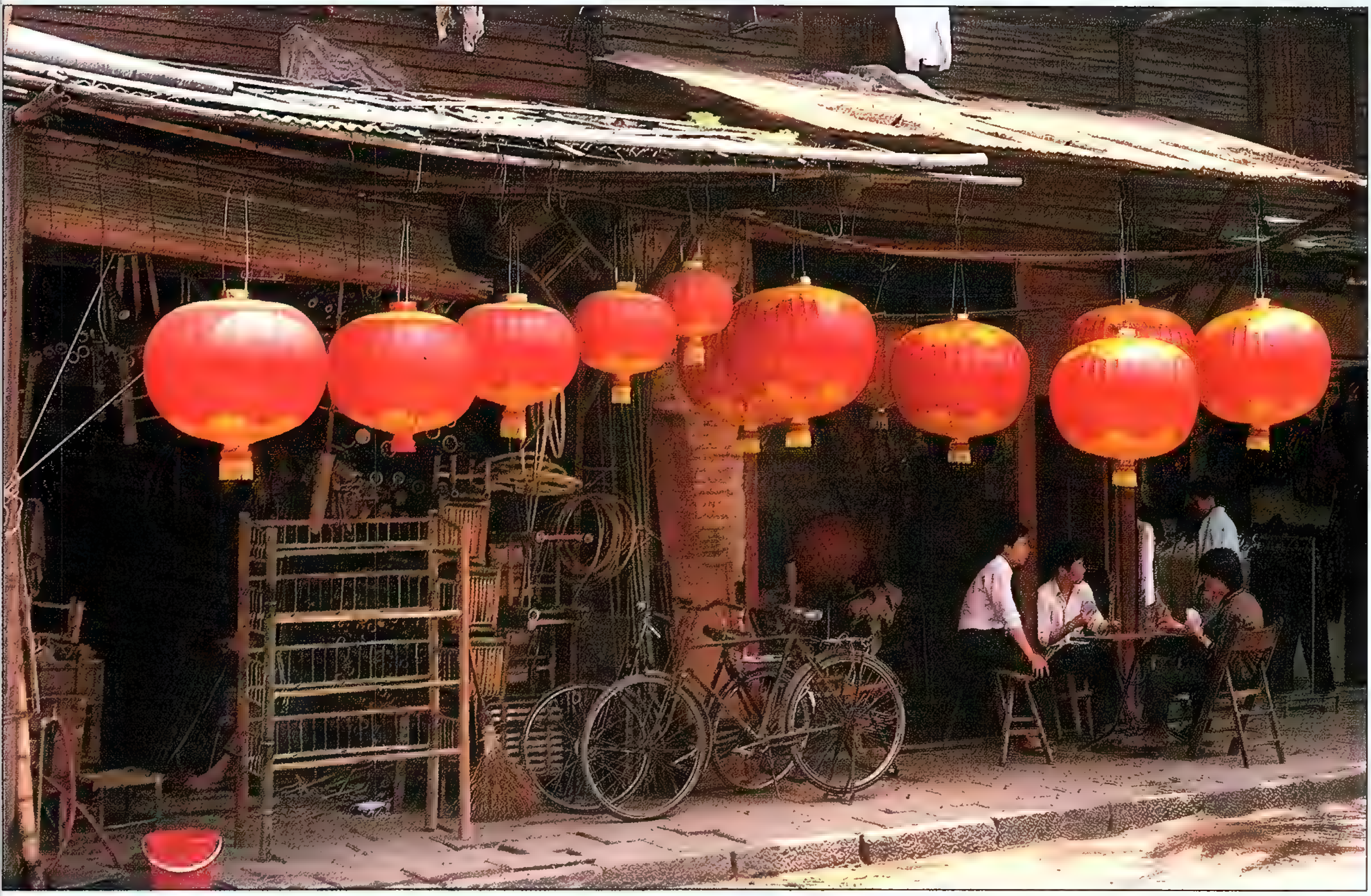
The paper-work handicraft shop in Nanhou Street has a long history.

Though the Lantern Festival has passed, the red lanterns are still seen hung brilliantly on Nanhou Street.



In the past, flowers, birds, insects and fish were kept for the pleasure of high officials, noble lords and men of letters. However, these erstwhile pleasures of the rich have now come into the homes of ordinary people in Fuzhou. The flower and bird market, located on Liuyi Central Road in Taijiang, has a floor area of more than 30,000 square metres, with two trading corridors, more than 70 shops and hundreds of movable stalls.

Raising pets has become almost a fad in Fuzhou. This pet dog is treated as objects of affection by its master.

Pictures of Mao Zedong can often be seen on the windscreen of vehicles. This shop is also seen sporting such a picture, perhaps it is the fashion of doing business.

Yanshan Magpie Bridge in Cangshan District is a well-known marriage recommendation centre. When the single person with the intention of getting married finishes formalities there, the Magpie Bridge will arrange appointments with potential partners. In addition, various activities such as consultations, lectures, tea parties and dance parties are frequently arranged by the Magpie Bridge, thus providing single people more opportunities to meet their match.

Mobile telephones have already become status symbols in Fuzhou, while the shops selling the parts do not worry about business at all.

Fujian cuisine is recognized as one of the eight major cuisines in China, whereas the dishes indigenous to Fuzhou form a principal part of Fujian cuisine. Fujian cuisine is well known for delicacies from land and sea with light flavour, tasty but not too oily.

Pastimes such as riding on the hobbyhorse and playing on the swing can no longer satisfy the needs of the children in Fuzhou nowadays. You can glimpse the present needs of the children simply by looking at the castles imitating Disneyland at the children's park (by Hua Xiaorui).

正宗
聚福樓
閩菜
南臺風味美食街

In order to attract tourists, an imitation "Ancient Rongcheng Street" has been set up in Fuzhou, having snack bars with Fujian and Taiwan delicacies. It is really interesting to come here riding a two-wheel cab.

and white swallows can be heard chirping and whistling beautifully; goldfish, carp and tropical fish are seen chasing one after another. Meanwhile, pets such as Persian cats and Pekinese dogs are becoming popular and some people have even raised monkeys.

Recently, the social relations between men and women in Fuzhou have become more open. Newspapers and magazines carry advertisements for marriage. People looking for life partners are seen filling marriage recommendation centres, among which the Yanshan Marriage Recommendation Centre, located beside Mount Yantai Park, is the most famous one.

As a result of the frequent contacts between Fujian and Taiwan and the arrival of many Taiwanese, the incidence of marriage between the residents of Fujian and Taiwan are increasing day by day. According to the statistics, more than 300 "mandarin ducks of the Taiwan Straits", that is, couples with one from Fujian and the other from Taiwan, have tied the marital knot since 1991.

Different Culinary Delicacies

Fujian cuisine is recognized as one of the eight major cuisines in China, whereas the dishes indigenous to Fuzhou form a principal part of Fujian cuisine. Fujian cuisine is well known for delicacies from land and sea with light flavour, tasty but not too oily.

"Buddha Jumping Over the Wall", a typical Fujian dish, is prepared at the Juchunyuan Restaurant, with eighteen high-quality raw materials being selected, such as sea cucumber, abalone, shark's fin and chicken gizzard, symbolically named after the eighteen disciples of Buddha. They are then placed layer upon layer into the Shaoxing flagon to stew. Legend has it that in ancient times when the flagon lid was opened after the first tasting of this dish, the fragrance spread far and wide. The air around the neighbourhood became so fragrant that even the vegetarian monk who smelled it could not prevent his mouth from watering, thus, the name" Buddha Jumping Over the Wall".

Quite a number of alleys have been set up in Fuzhou, with small restaurants and food stands serving a wide variety of local dishes and snacks such as spring rolls, fish balls, Taiji taroes and so on, which are both economical and tasty.

Recently, with the opening of China to the outside world, businessmen from far and wide more frequently visit Fuzhou. Local people have whetted their appetite for different food, ranging from Fujian cuisine to all the Chinese cuisine and even foreign dishes. Chinese dishes enjoyed include Guangdong *dim sum,* Beijing roast duck, Chongqing peppery beancurd and Taiwan spiced chicken. But the Japanese restaurant, the South Korean barbecue restaurant, American snack bars and other restaurants offering a variety of European styles of cooking have been established in Fuzhou one after another. Judging from this, it can be concluded that Fuzhou people are good at accepting the best of all worlds.

Translated by Yang Meizhen

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醫療器械、橡膠及製品、黑色金屬、輕工業品、
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Scope of export commodities management

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Scope of export commodities management

The products mainly include tungsten concentrate, synthetic sheelite, tungsten trioxide, tungsten powder, tungsten acid, molybdenum concentrate, tin ingot, antimony sulphide, antimony ingot, zinc ingot, silicon metal fluorite, sulphur concentrate, high yttrium mixture rare earth oxides, enriched europium mixture rare earth oxides, rare earth oxides and metals, rare earth ferro-silicon alloy, tantalum & niobium oxides, carbides, Ta-Nb-base alloy, lithium tantalate mono-crystal, lithium niobate mono-crystal, and other nonferrous metal products.

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J. TOYS DEPT.

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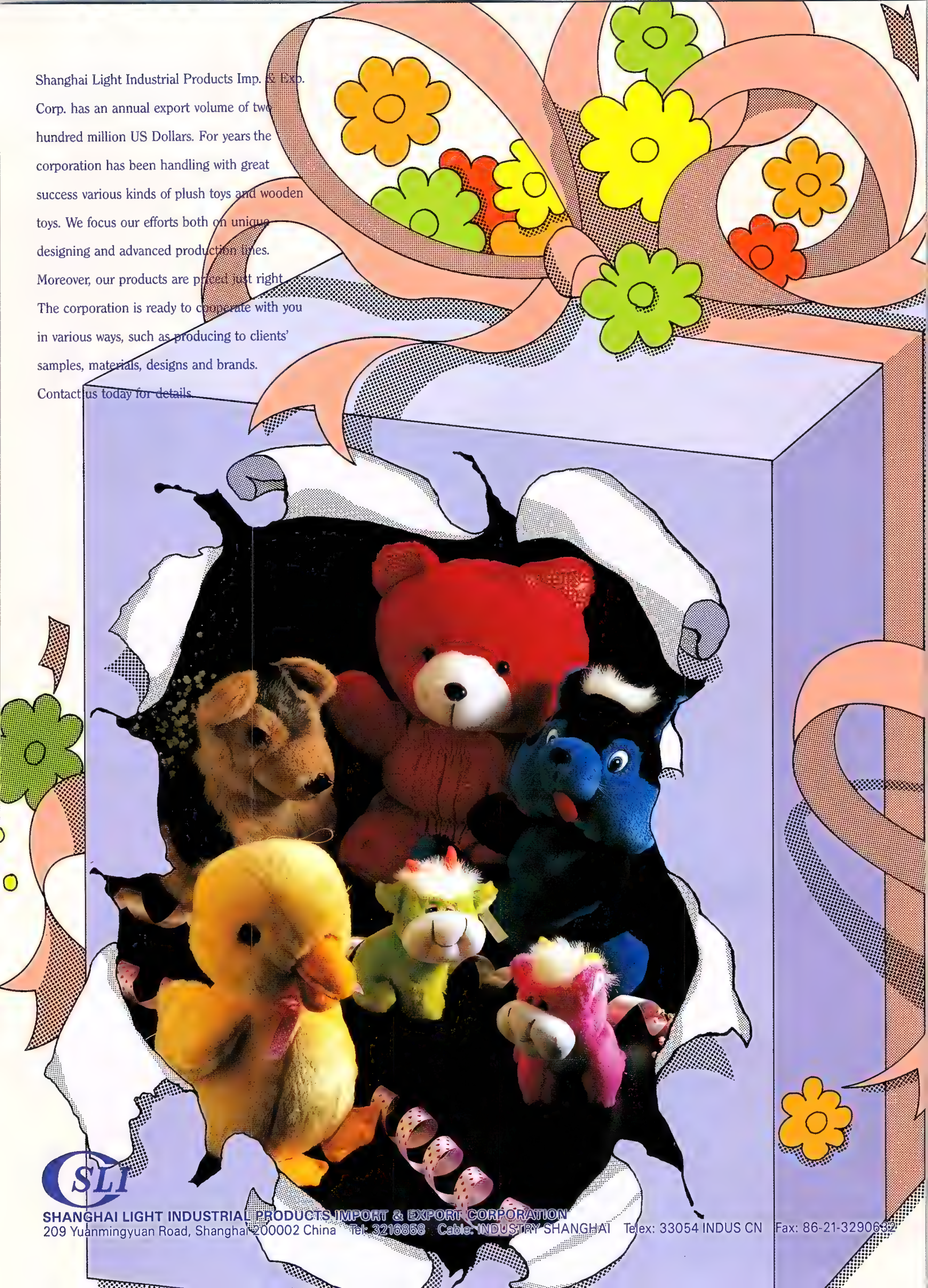

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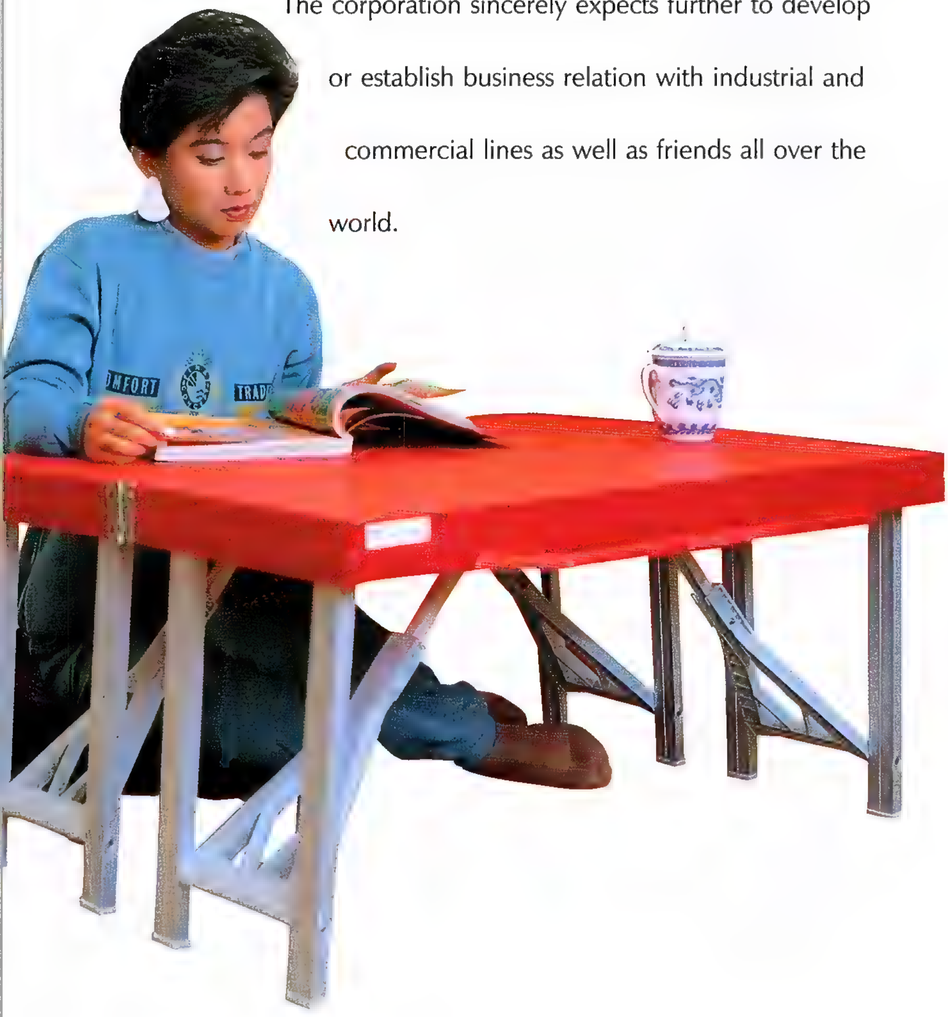

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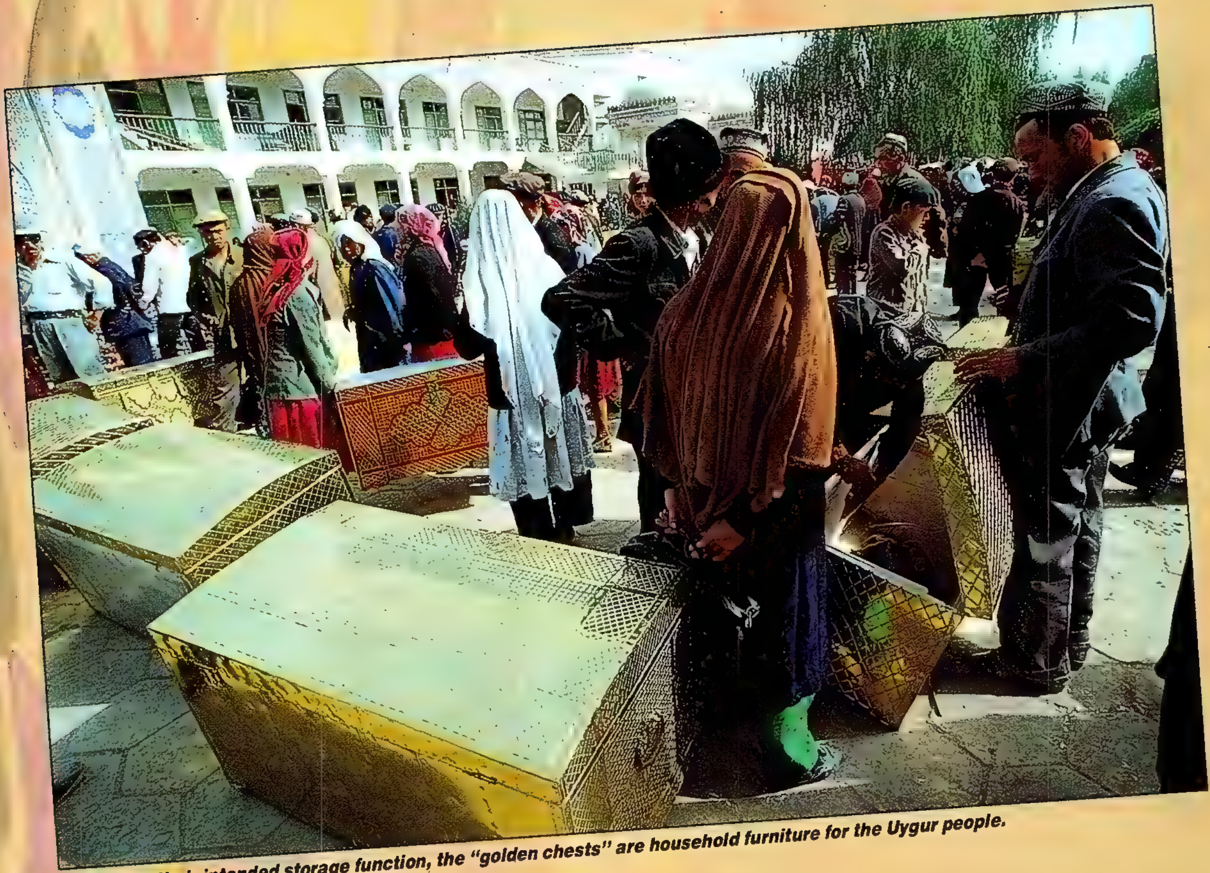
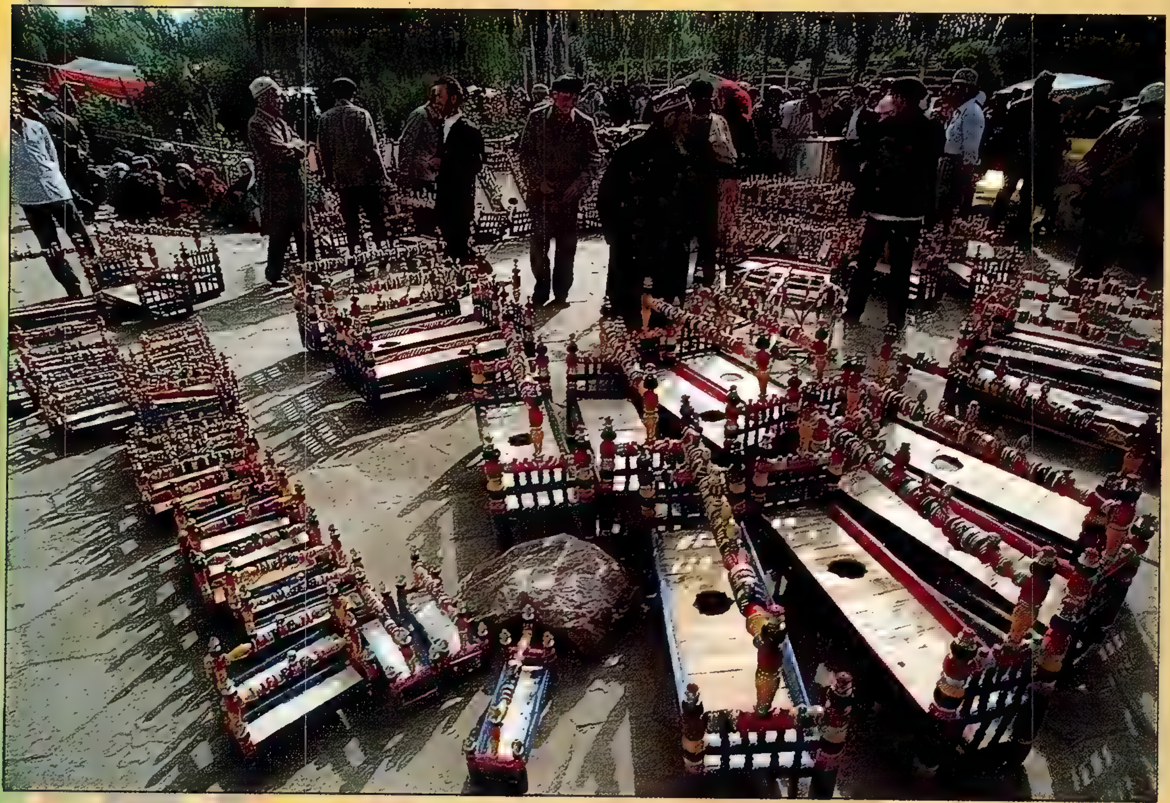


Apart from their intended storage function, the "golden chests" are household furniture for the Uygur people.

Kashi's Grand Bazaar

Largest Market in the Westernmost Chinese City

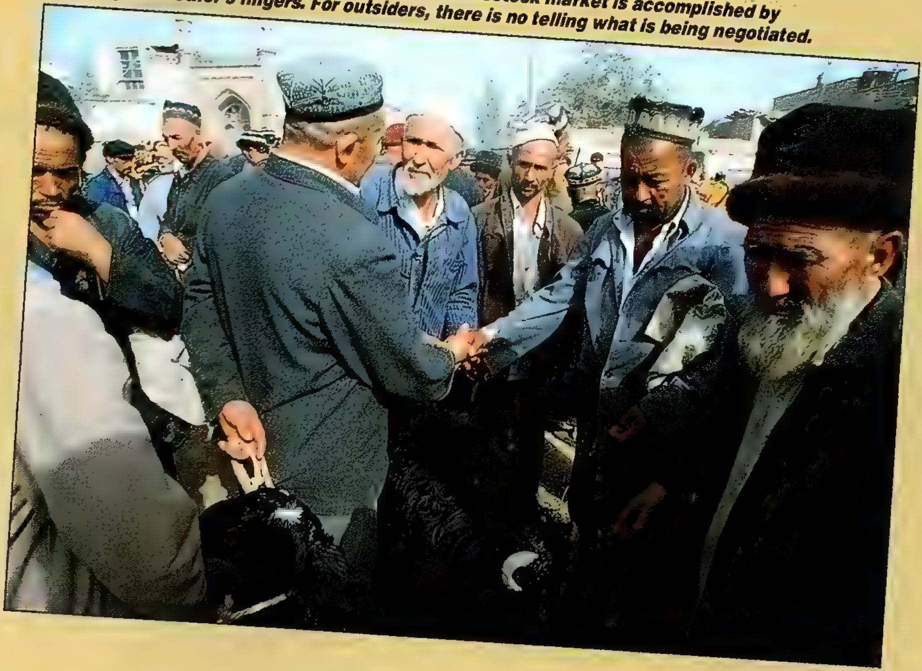
PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY FENG JIN



Furniture at the wooden product market has a highly decorative style associated with ethnic minorities.

喀什
Kashi
烏魯木
Urüm
新疆
XINJIANG

The trip by air from Urümqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in Northwest China, to the well-known oasis Kashi, the westernmost city in China, takes just a little over an hour. The Sunday grand market there – called the Grand Bazaar – has become a must for tourists to the city, both Chinese and foreigners alike. Kashi itself has about 200,000 inhabitants, mostly Uygurs and Hans, but on any given Sunday the bazaar attracts up to about half of its population from near and far.


Instead of exchanging words, bargaining at the livestock market is accomplished by touching each other's fingers. For outsiders, there is no telling what is being negotiated.

Donkey Carts and Modern Buses Share the Streets

One early Sunday morning, we headed off towards the bazaar on a donkey cart. The driver, in his fifties and wearing the traditional square hat and the collarless and sleeveless vest with a long belt tied around the waist, was in a happy mood all the way. What impressed me most though was his beautiful cart whose red canopy, though in fading colour, was neat and clean and whose seat featured a coloured carpet cover. The brownish-red donkey's neck was decorated with bells, a Uygur tradition that also serves as a good advertisement *cum* warning. Surprisingly, the small cart was carrying over a dozen passengers. I really did not expect that the little donkey had such strength and power.

Today at Kashi, also known as Kashgar, donkey-pulled carts remain a major means of transportation as they share the roads together with modern buses and motorcycles. This is indeed one of the quaint charms of the city.

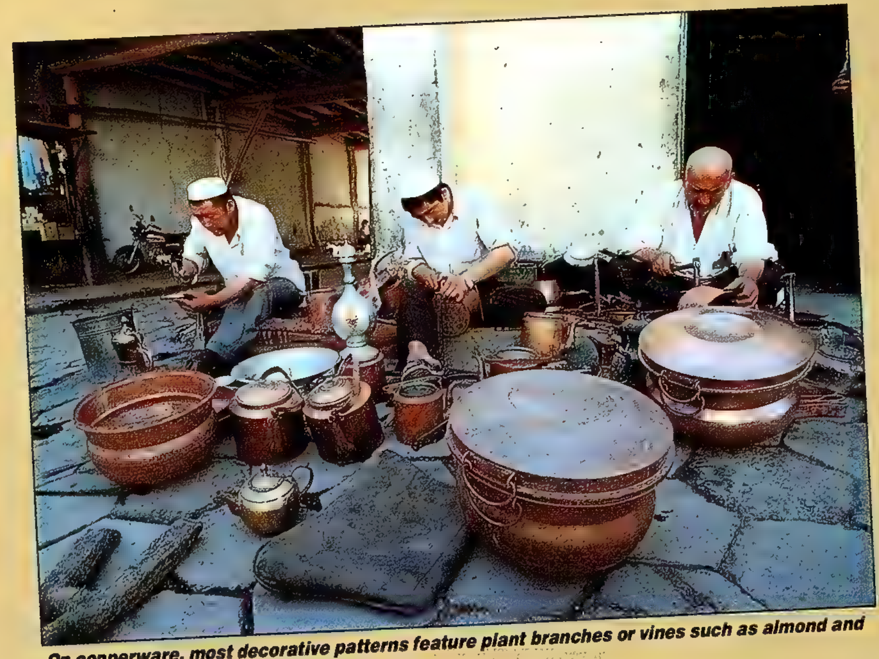
More Than a Millennium

Several hundred metres away from the bazaar, the road already was jammed with all manner of donkey and horse carts. I learned that during peak hours, as many as over 30,000 carts could be seen in the vicinity of the market. Some of them came to deliver goods, some carried beautifully-clothed women and children who came to have a good time at the market. Of course others brought passengers who were there to close business deals. Surprisingly enough, among the drivers were youngsters still in their teens and they handled the carts like veterans.

The crying of cart drivers, the giggling of women and children, the jingling of bells around the donkeys' necks and the complaints of the pedestrians combined not unharmoniously to bring forth a sound unique to the bazaar.

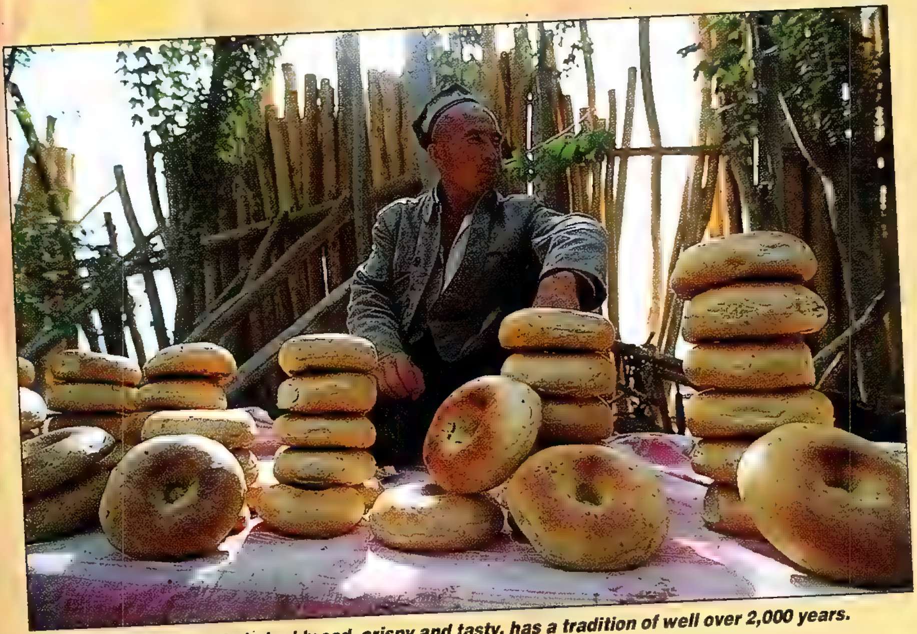
As the largest post along the Silk Road, the city of Kashi was already an international trade centre over 1,000 years ago. At the time, merchants from India, Rome and Persia and horse caravans from Shaanxi and Sichuan Provinces in China converged here for business. This gathering of merchants was believed to be the origin of the bazaar today.

A piece of land two kilometres long and one kilometre wide was densely occupied by make-shift shops with carpets spread on the ground. The shops, mostly structures of thatched huts, cloth-sheds and wooden-board houses, sold all kinds of commodities ranging from grain, cooking oil, vegetables, meat, eggs and chickens to industrial goods for daily use; from live donkeys, horses, cattle and sheep to timber, firewood and carts; from musical instruments, porcelain ware, arts and handicrafts of ethnic minorities to snacks of all flavours. On any average morning, over 500 kinds of goods changed hands and sales worth 400,000 yuan was the average tally for a normal day.

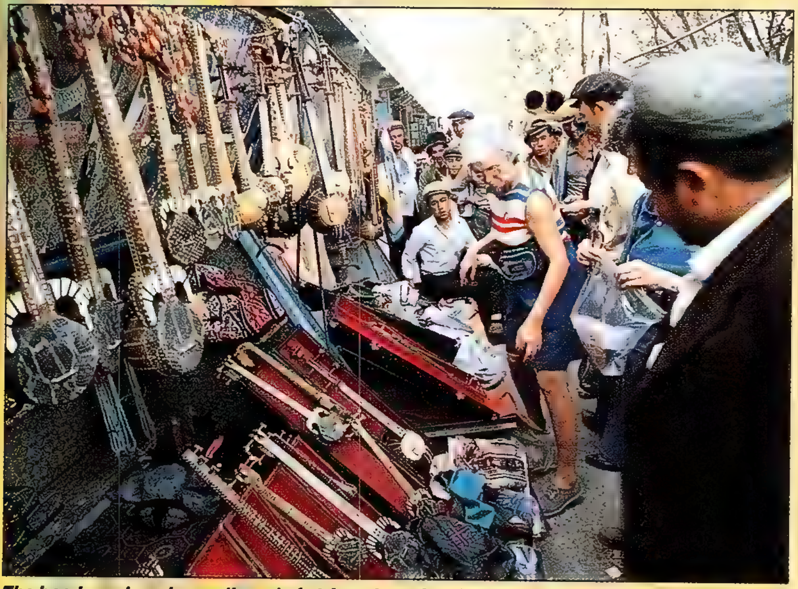

On copperware, most decorative patterns feature plant branches or vines such as almond and gourd.

Colourful Display of a Variety of Goods

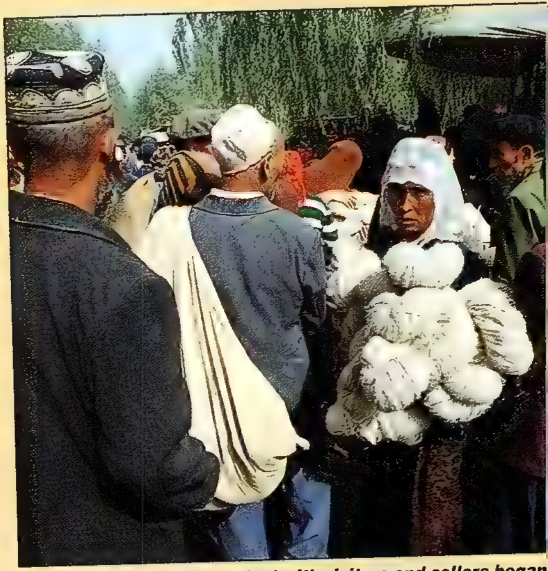
A group of Uygur girls made their way from behind to the front of a crowd. Traditionally, married women have two braids, while the braids of unmarried ones are exactly the same number as their age. Today, among these girls, some tied their hair into pony tails. They wore shirts of beautiful Etnis silk and they were resplendent with ornamental decoration. Some of the girls also sported silk hats while others had nylon scarves and looked as if they were dressed up for a major festival. Following them, we came to a stand selling small commodities for daily use.



Nang, the Xinjiang style baked bread, crispy and tasty, has a tradition of well over 2,000 years.



The head, neck and soundboard of stringed musical instruments are inlaid with fragments of polished animal bones to create rich patterns of distinctive ethnic minority characteristics.



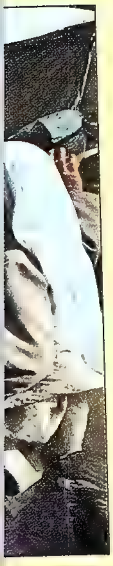
It is said that bazaars packed with visitors and sellers began to evolve along the Silk Road over 1,000 years ago.

It is only early morning and yet people are already heading for the bazaar.

On display here were jewelry favoured by different ethnic groups inhabiting Xinjiang. Varying from each other in style, shape, colour and patterns, the items available here included earrings and eardrops, hairpins, finger rings, bracelets, necklaces, collar tacks, brooches, lockets and decorative head bands. It was indeed a dazzling collection. The girls talked as they made their selections. Seeing us, the owner of the stand immediately greeted us in Mandarin, saying, "Come forward and have a look."

We found out that most of the commodities at the market were locally produced handicrafts. The rest were carried over from elsewhere within China or sent over by mail from abroad. Yet other products were from Egypt, Turkey or other Middle Eastern countries via border trade between China and Pakistan. Such a rich variety of goods are heir to the international tradition of the Silk Road trade.

This piece of cloth has attracted many people because of its colourful pattern, design and fine workmanship.



Sharp Sales Pitch and Silent Negotiations

The Yengisar knife (named after a place) from Kashi, an indispensable tool of the Uygurs in their daily life as well as a traditional arts and crafts item, enjoys a good reputation and demand elsewhere. The knives are laid out next to each other in rows and their blades glisten in dark blue, the sides of the blades revealing carved patterns of almonds. Seeing that I was fascinated with the knives, the pedlar, while loudly crying his wares, struck his knife against an iron rod standing in front of him, leaving a clear white dent without even marking his knife blade. Impressed with his sales pitch, how could I resist the temptation of buying this fine craft. On other stands, more than twenty varieties of hats for people of different ages and sex, all showing patterns sewed by hand with black and white or coloured silk thread, were hung next to each other for customers' selection. Many foreigners donned their newly purchased hats and took pictures on the spot.

Among the bustling crowd were women holding out embroidered scarves and pillows, showing the embroidered side to prospective purchasers in an attempt to sell what they had made with their own hands.

The most interesting sales technique was seen at the livestock market. Crowded together, buyers and sellers touched each other's fingers instead of verbally bargaining – the action resembled a pantomime. Not knowing the specifics that were being negotiated, onlookers could only guess at the progress of negotiations by reading the facial expressions of buyers and sellers. Perhaps this is what making a "secret deal" is like.

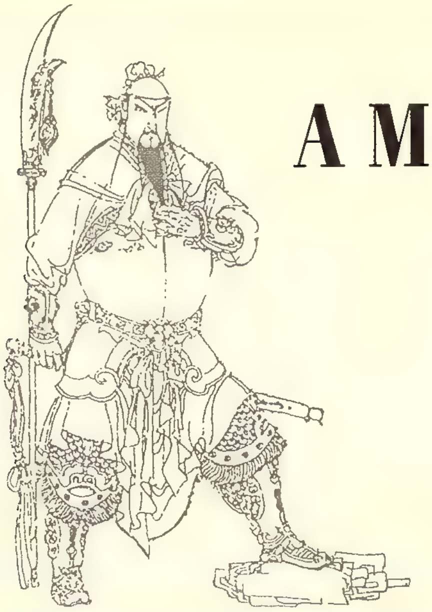
Appetizing Delights

At the bazaar, a common sight was Uygurs, adults and children alike, walking around, eating *kebab* (skewered roast lamb). In fact, many people at the market neither bought nor sold anything, they were just there to have fun and window-shop. Today, visiting the bazaar is an indispensable Sunday social activity for Kashi residents.

Following the aroma of *kebab* led me to all the food stands. Here *kebab* stands outnumbered any others, yet still they seemed unable to satisfy the demand. At some other food stands, *nang*, a Xinjiang style baked bread, piled high and steamed dumplings were also sold. Sheep, just slaughtered and dressed, were hung high. The stand owner cut what the customer chose and then threw the meat into the cooker for making meat-rice which would be eaten with the right hand. At a noodle stand, an old man held both ends of a dough mixed with oil and swung it in the air a few times to create noodles of even thickness and equal length. Stir-fried with spring onion and hot pepper, the noodles tasted just wonderful. Despite the fact that business at the food stands was brisk, they still tried to attract more customers, as cooks clattered their ladles against woks or advertised their wares at the top of their voices. The bazaar has a capacity of 100,000 people and that means, among other things, consumption of a great amount of food each day.

Translated by Huang Youyi

Uygur women peddling their home-made handicrafts



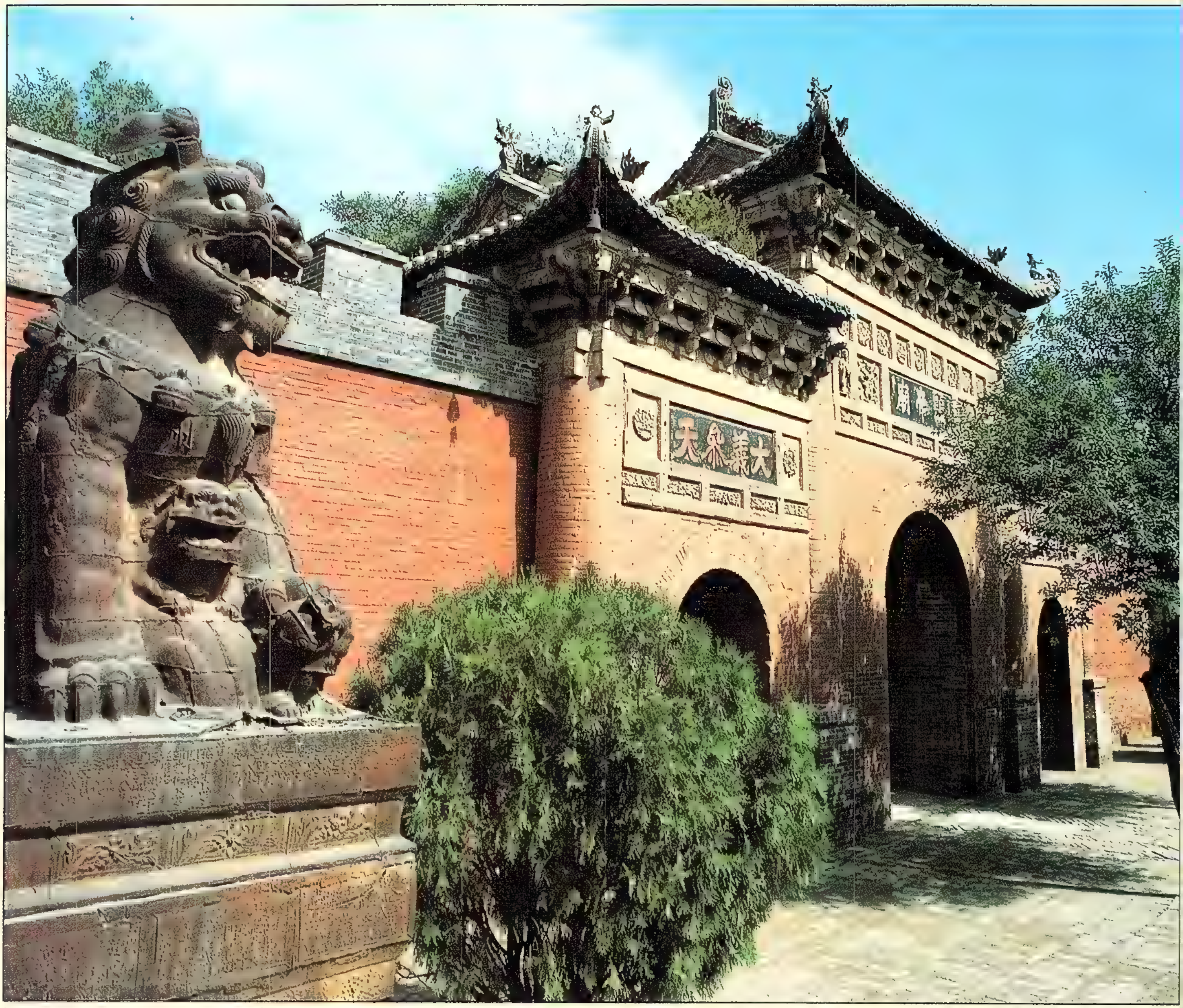
A Monument to the God of War

The Temple of Guan Yu in Xiezhou

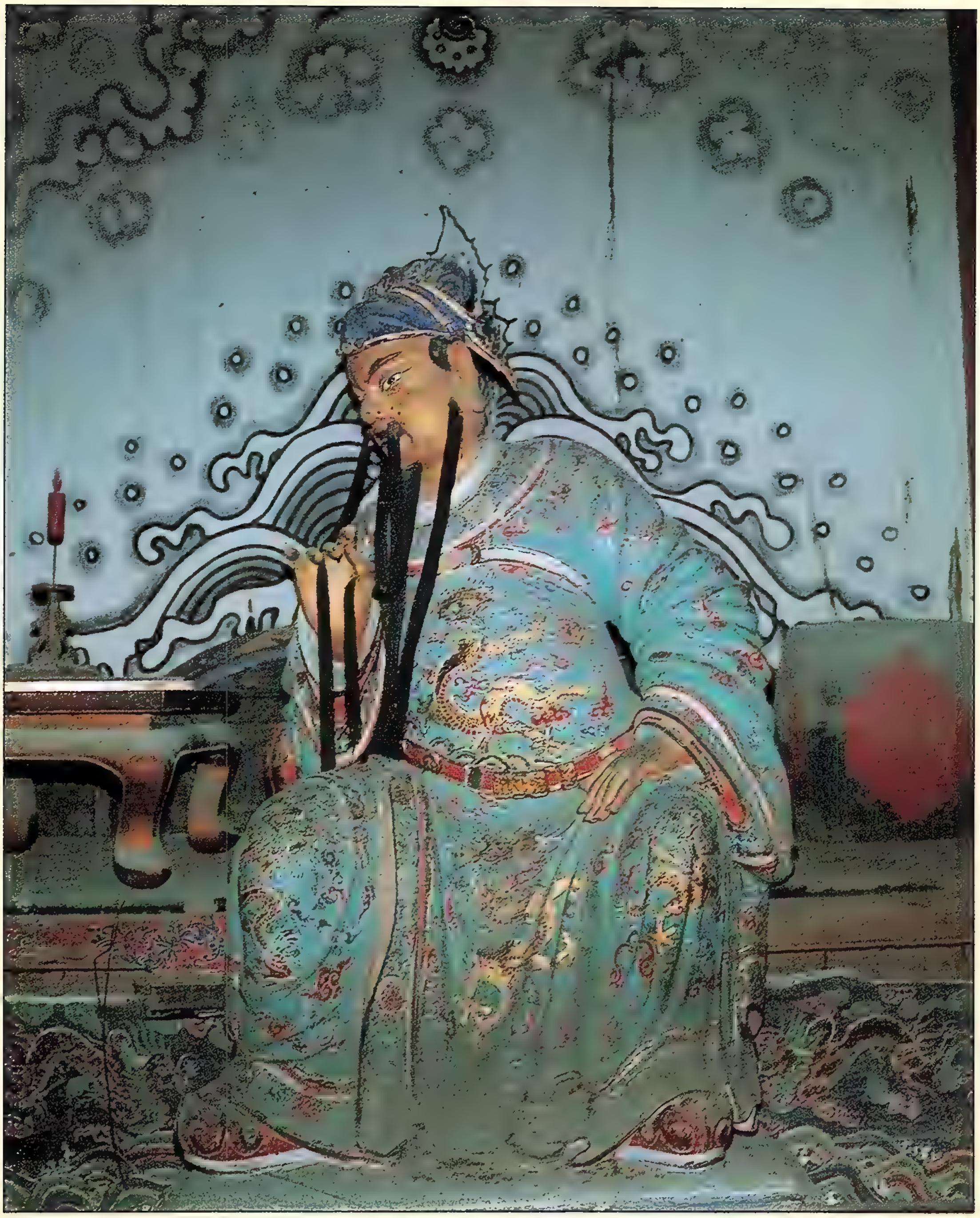
PHOTOS BY GUO FENGMING ARTICLE BY JIN FENG

Driving south from Yuncheng, Shanxi Province, I soon arrived in Xieznou, a small town known for its Temple of Guan Yu, nicknamed "small palace" (actually "small former palace"). Enshrined here is Guan Yu, a general of the State of Shu in the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), Xiezhou being the place of his birth.

After the death of the general, practically all Chinese emperors in later dynasties revered him as a god of war owing to a variety of reasons. A temple was erected by imperial decree to honour the man who was appointed to deity status. This caused the temple whose construction first began in 589 during the Sui Dynasty (581-618) to be extended to an architectural area of 18,500



The gate of the Temple of Guan Yu



Guan Yu reading the **Spring and Autumn Annals** *— an episode in his life familiar to the Chinese public*

太原
Taiyuan
山西
Shanxi
解州
Xiezhou
運城
Yuncheng

square metres in the course of large-scale renovations during the Qing Dynasty. The layout is actually typical of a traditional Chinese palace.

Statue of Guan Yu in Chunqiu Pavilion

The temple is made up of three parts: the Jieyi (Brotherhood) Garden, the hall where Guan Yu is venerated, and the rear palace in which his statue is erected. Passing the memorial archway and the main gate, I entered the gate of the temple. Instead of following other tourists who visited the temple from front to back, I went right to the Chunqiu Pavilion in the rear to see first what is regarded as the best attraction of the temple. The pavilion is said to have been built between 1573 and 1620 during the Ming Dynasty. It went through renovation in 1870. It was thus named because Guan Yu always enjoyed reading the *Spring and Autumn Annals* of Confucius. The words "Spring and Autumn" read "Chunqiu" in Chinese.

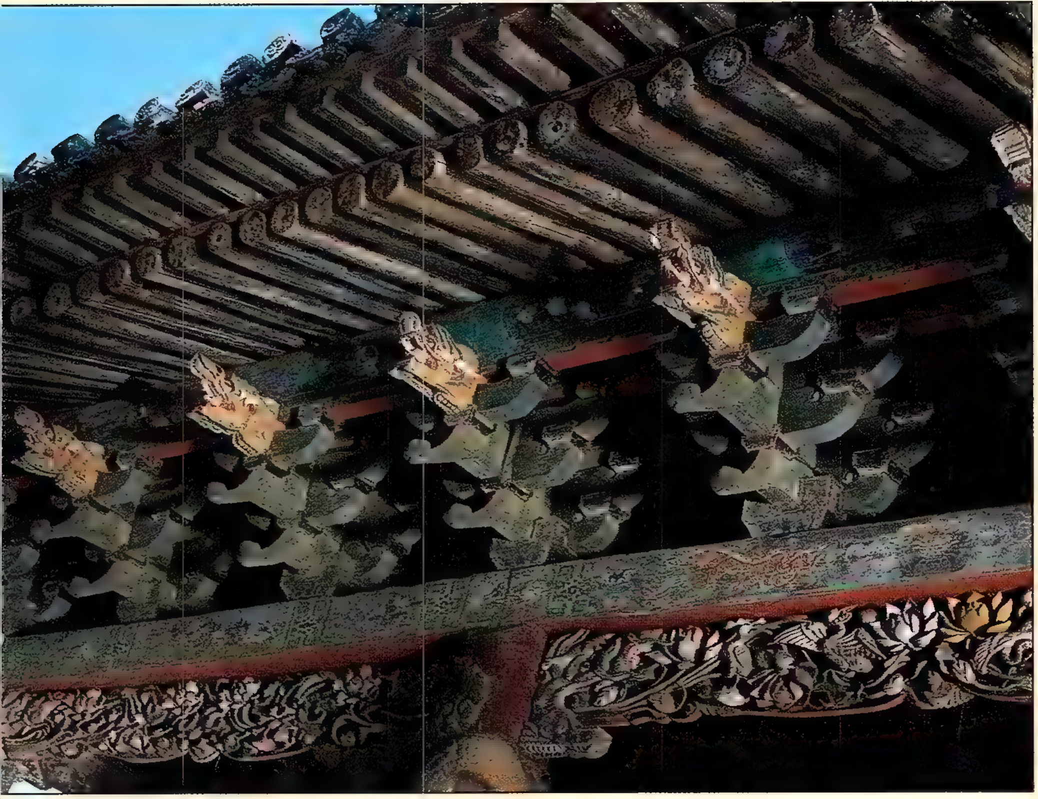
The Spring and Autumn Pavilion serves as Guan Yu's study. Measuring 33 meters high, it is a two-storey architecture in nine-ridge style with slanting roof tops and three edges or eaves projecting beyond walls. In this tallest building of the temple, the statue of Guan Yu, gold-gilded all over the body, is seated in a very dignified manner. Guan Yu was the personification of loyalty. Contemplative and serious, he was a man of great righteousness, yet there is an air of magnanimity about him as well. In the upper storey of the pavilion we find a statue in colours, showing Guan Yu reading the *Spring and Autumn Annals* by candlelight. Upon closer examination this statue looked different from the seated one downstairs, which had a natural countenance but a mood of studied detachment.

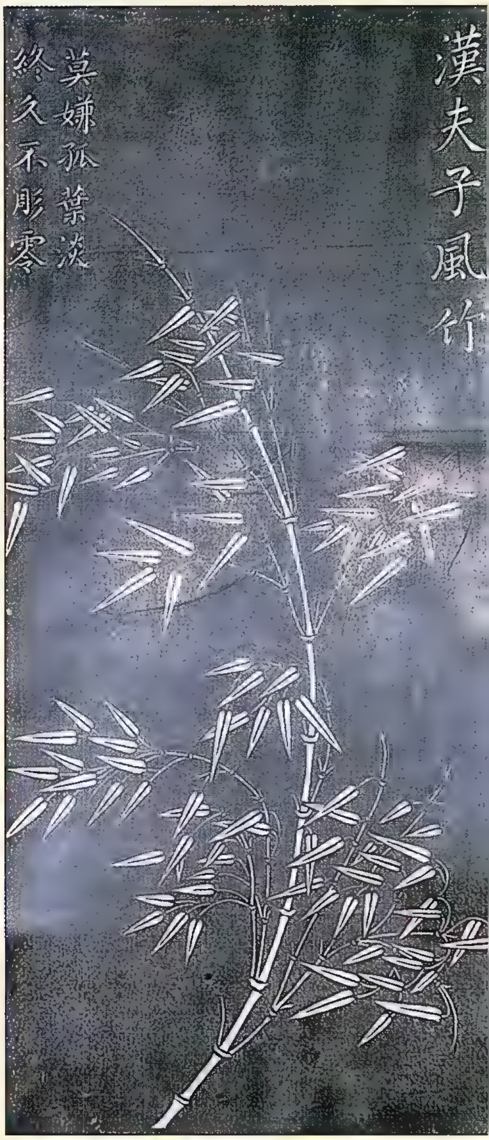
I slowly made my way downstairs to the backyard in a lovely breeze. I was greeted by an inscription which accompanied an etching of a bamboo plant. Written in verse, it is possible that, apart from being an avid reader of history, Guan Yu had written poems or painted pictures in his spare time. I could not, however, find any historical records to substantiate the claim, nor whether it was actually a copy of his own handwriting.

The Green Dragon Sword

The famous Chinese historical novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* describes an episode in which Guan Yu was said to have made a 41-kilogram broad sword that had a carved green dragon and was shaped like a crescent moon. This sword, sporting a long handle, was a personal weapon supposedly carried by the great warrior. As this was the ancestral temple of Guan Yu, I thought that his sword must naturally be on display here and so I went to the Sword Building, after leaving the rear courtyard. The Sword Building stood in

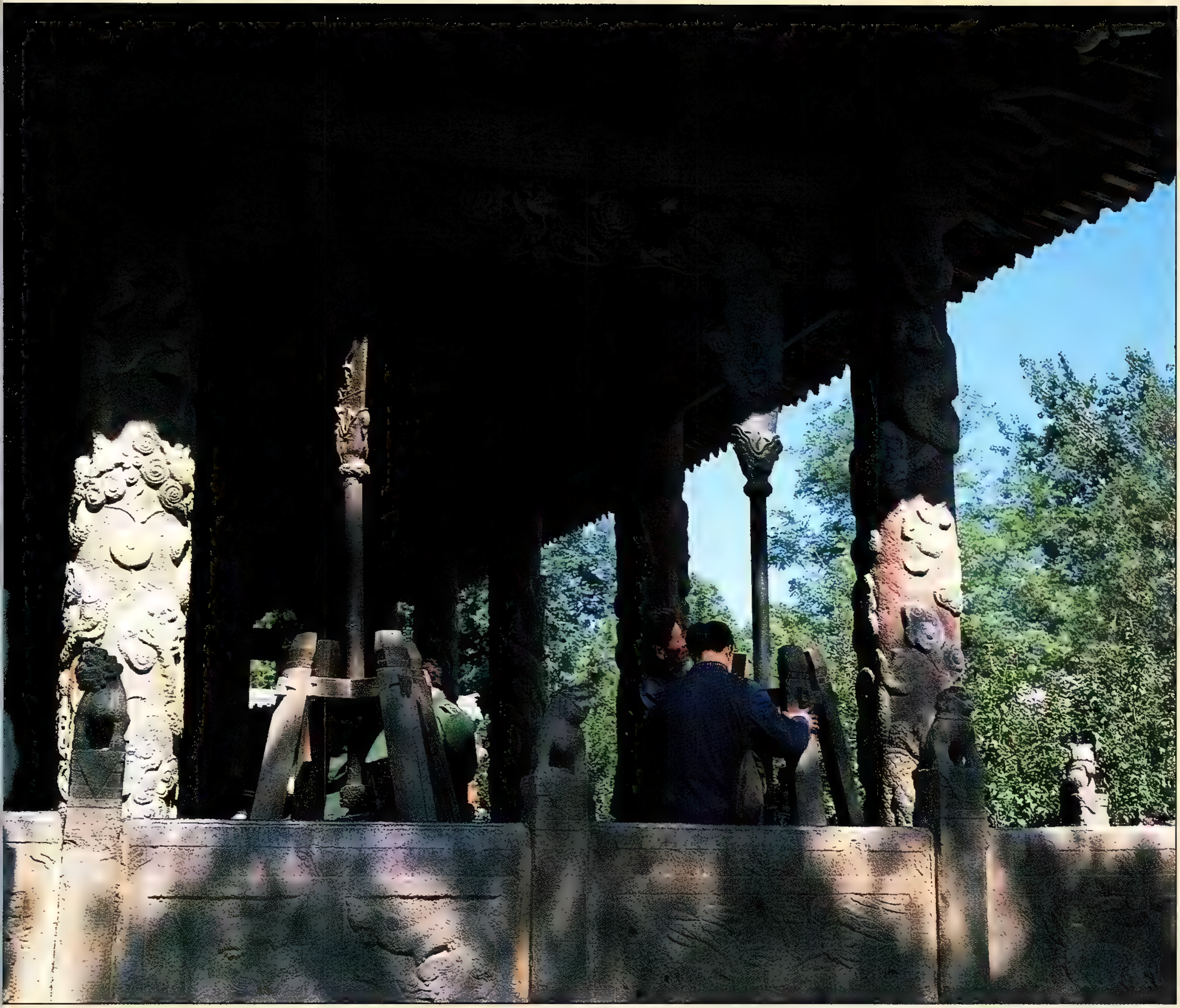
The head of the* dougong *bracket or the cantilever system set supporting the roof and eaves from the column takes the form of a dragon's head. The* queti *or horizontal bracket beneath the lower beam has an intricate openwork design which is indicative of the painstaking detail paid to exquisitely decorating this temple.



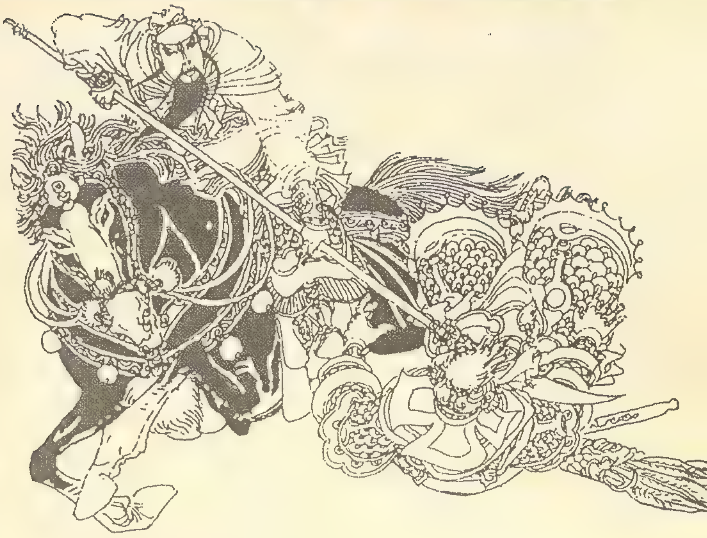

漢夫子風竹
莫嫌孤葉淡
終久不彫零

Bamboo in stormy weather — possibly a inscription written by Guan Yu in his ow handwriting (by Chan Yat Nin

On the ridge of the roof are strange pottery animals in excellent shape.



Try to lift up this replica of the sword allegedly used by Guan Yu.



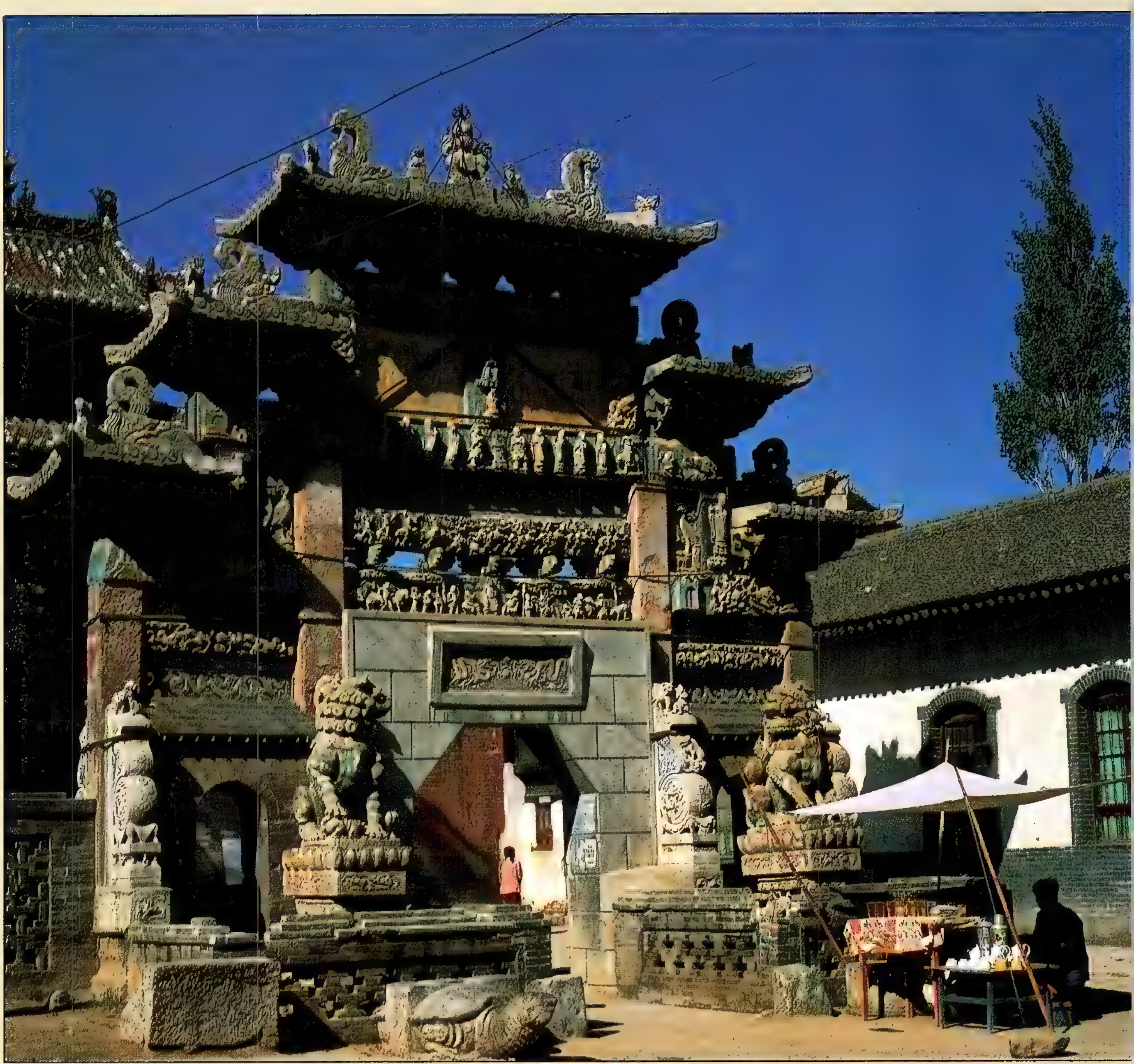
front of the Spring and Autumn Pavilion. But I only found a replica of the broad sword. This sword was actually on the steps leading to the Chongning Hall. From the south gate of the rear palace, I came to the Chongning Hall. In the corridor supported by columns I noticed two big swords (not one), resting on a wooden rack. I attempted to lift up one of the swords, but failed to do so, as it was far too heavy. It would seem that Guan Yu had been revered as a god of war and patron saint of the military not only on account of his loyalty to the Han Dynasty but also due to his mighty strength in wielding this formidable weapon.

To the north of the Jieyi Garden was the main gate — the most outstanding architectural unit of the Temple of Guan Yu, built of bricks and having a rather ancient look. The name of the temple in Chinese characters written in a vigorous style was inscribed on the top of the gate. There was a pair of iron ions on the side, guarding the temple, said to have been cast during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In front of the gate were three criss-crossing iron pillars,

a feature not found in temples dedicated to Guan Yu elsewhere in China. The pillars served as an obstruction of sorts to officials, who would have to aligh from their horses or carriages to enter the temple. They would be in danger of being impeached for a breach of ceremony, if they failed to dismount or disembark.

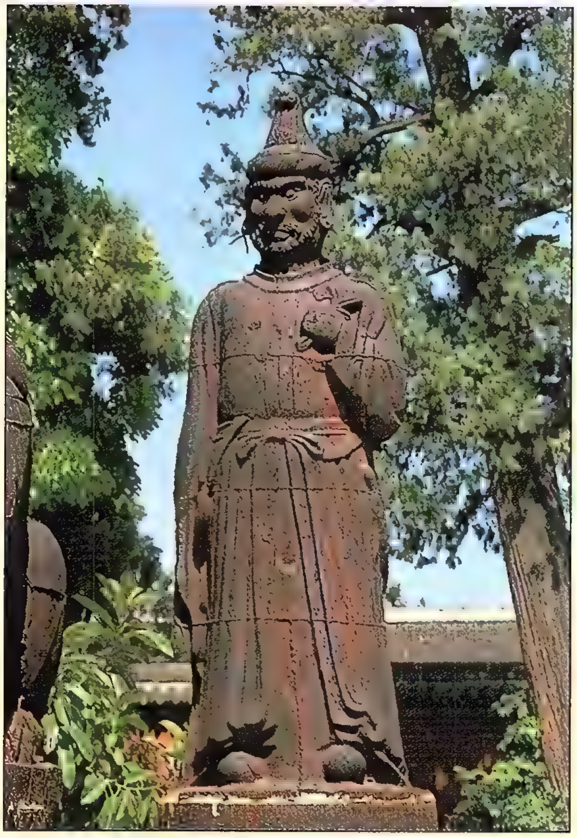
Guan Yu's Ancestral Temple in Changping Village

Guan Yu was born in Changping Village, about five kilometres from Xiezhou Town. Changping was on the loess plateau with its typical brownish yellow terrain features. A stone tablet, almost as tall as a man, stood at the ap proach to the village inscribed with the words: "Hometown of Guan Yu". The ancestral temple itself was not far behind the tablet. The temple was usuall locked but was opened for me, a rare visitor, by the keeper of the temple, wh was brought to me by the guide. The temple complex included three court yards. In the buildings surrounded by the yard, we found statues. The statue of Guan Yu and his son, Guan Ping were in the building within the first yard. I

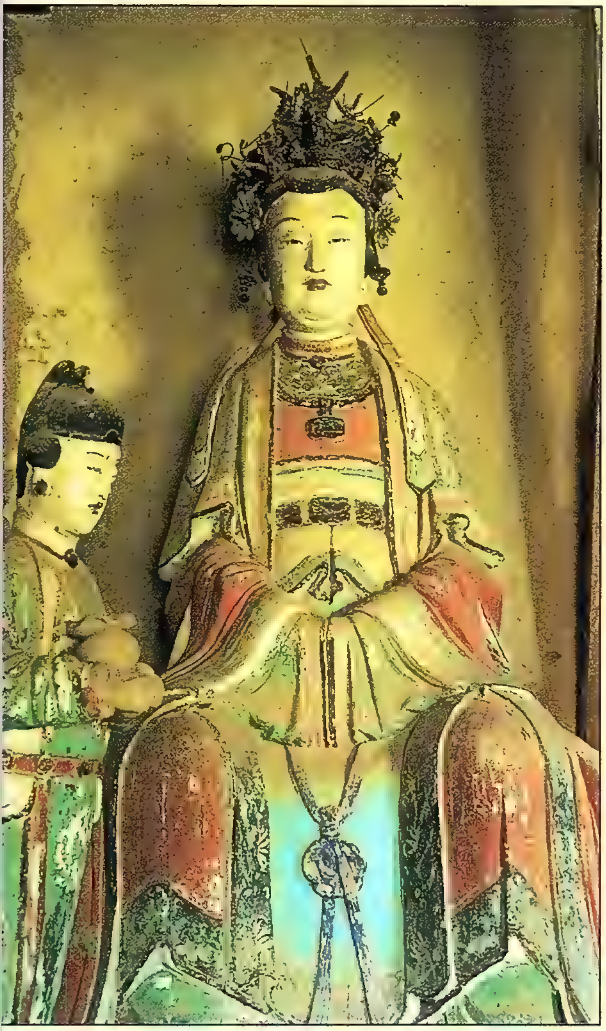


Stone archway at the approach to the Temple of Guan Yu, fully decorated with carvings. It imparts a sense of steadfastness and elegance.

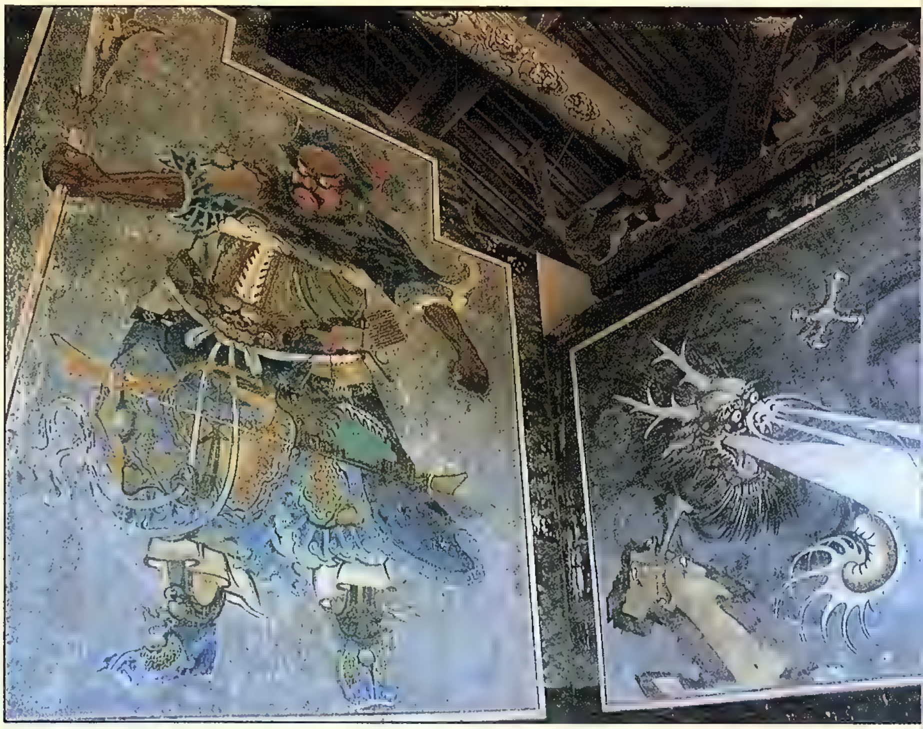
This iron statue of a foreign emissary with a high nose and an upturned beard resembles a Tang Dynasty artifact (by Chan Yat Nin).



tatue of the wife of Guan Yu with an attendant by Chan Yat Nin)



This is a mural depicting Zhou Cang, a lieutenant of Guan Yu (by Chan Yat Nin).



the structure within the second yard, we found statues of ancestors of the warrior. In an edifice within the third yard was that of the wife of Guan Yu.

By the side of the main hall was a bricked hexagonal pagoda, which had no windows or doors of any kind. Known as the Maiqi pagoda, it was built to honour the memory of Guan Yu's parents, who committed suicide on learning that their son had taken the law into his own hand by killing a local despot. When their son was listed as wanted and fled from home, the parents jumped into a well to avoid being harassed by the corrupt officials. The pagoda now stands at the original site of the well.

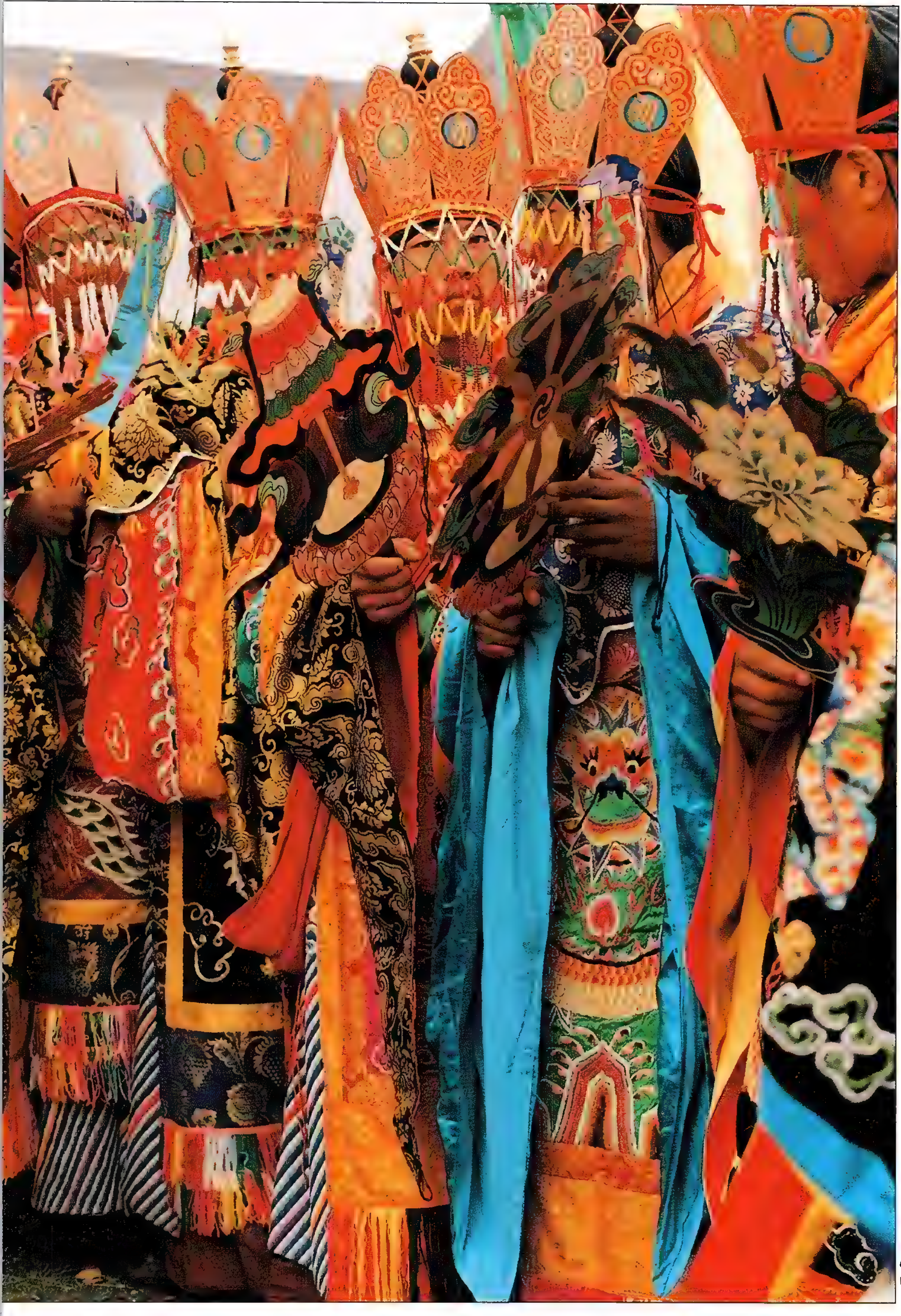
When I was looking at the pagoda, I saw a group of villagers coming to the temple, bringing with them incense, joss sticks, wine and tea. They knelt and made their offerings to Guan Yu. Having learned that the temple was open, they had come to worship the deity. I asked one of the villagers whether he was surnamed Guan but received a negative reply. I was then told that there was no longer any descendant of Guan Yu remaining in the village. The villagers, however, had a strong sense of reverence and respect for Guan Yu. By living in the same village, they somehow felt that by extension they shared in his glory.

Translated by He Fei

Performers enact their dance of the Buddha and play the suona *horn as accompaniment.*

A Light-Hearted Rendition of Buddha's Dance in Dangka Lamasery

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG ARTICLE BY ZHENG XIANGDONG



Dancers in spectacularly designed dragon robes waiting for their turn to appear on stage

I have seen the Buddha's Dance performed as a religious ceremony in several Tibetan areas, and the dance has a different local flavour in each place. But the particular dance I saw in Dangka Lamasery, Yushu in the south of Qinghai Province had an extra ingredient of interest not seen anywhere else before, in addition to taking on a local flavour.

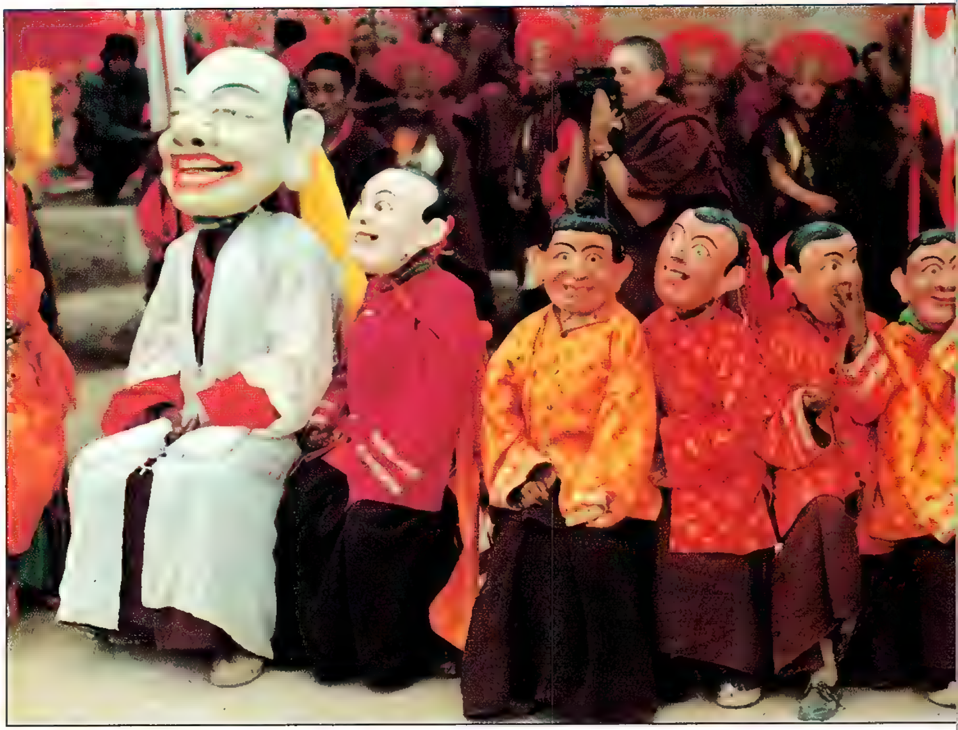
100-Year-Old Dance Performed to Musical Accompaniment

I covered a distance of five kilometres in a car from Jiegu, capital of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and arrived at Dangka Lamasery on a mountain top last July. The place was a cluster of structures encompassing dozens of halls in various sizes, with over 60 lamas. Built in 1239, the lamasery belongs to the Gemageju Sect or White Order of Lamaism founded by Gemaba (1110-1193) distinguished by the wearing of white skirts and white shirts by its monks. The dance of the Buddha, I was told, has a history of 100 years or more. It is done to the accompaniment of music. Its content is centred on Buddhist stories as well as legendary figures in the religion and auspicious symbols, the purpose being to expel unpropitious forces, get rid of spiritual contamination accumulated over the past year and pray for a prosperous and peaceful year to come.

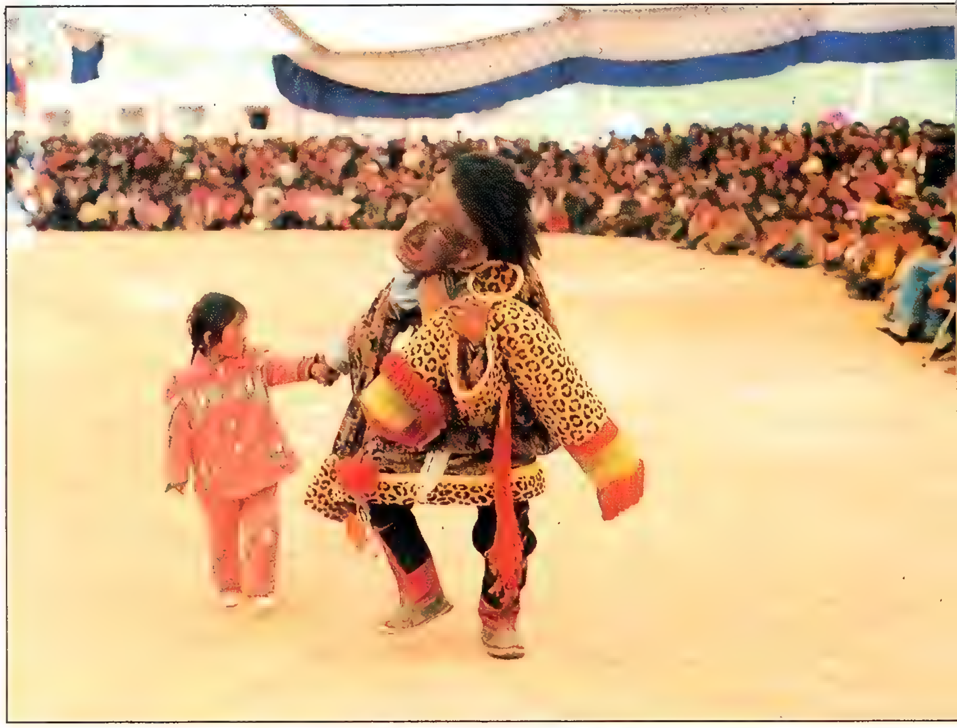
White Tent Packed with Thousands of People

The Buddha's Dance at this time was performed to mark the completion of the Big Sutra Hall, now open to worshippers. On a stand before the new hall is a white pattern tent with a blue fringe border spreading several dozen metres, the Grand Tent, where villagers from the area have gathered for the occasion. They numbered several thousand, who packed the tent to capacity. The space in the centre is left open for the performers to dance. On a stone stand are tables and chairs for the Living Buddhas and abbots of the lamasery to view the dance.

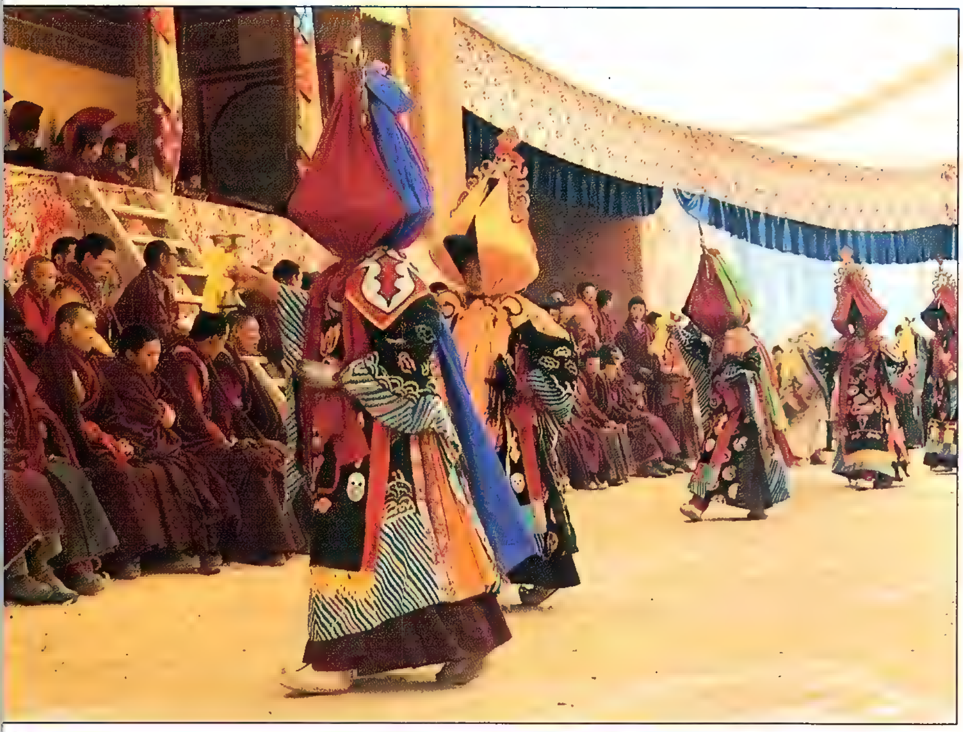
More smaller white pattern tents can be seen on the slopes, erected by herdsmen who came from more distant places to watch the dance and exchange gifts and



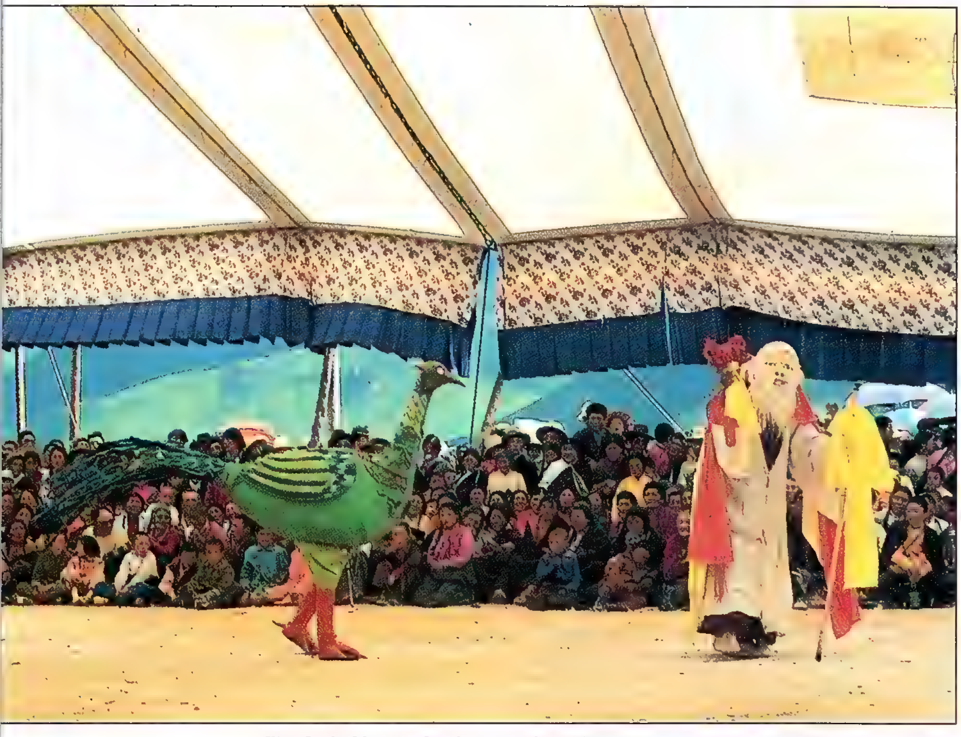
Seated and watching the dance are benefactors and lamas alike.



In a friendly manner a clown takes out a girl who has trespassed into the performance area.



The traditional ceremony of the Buddha's Dance



The God of Longevity dances with Fairy Crane – a bird known to have a long life.

foods among themselves. The lamasery environs are turned into a small fair on the occasion.

Dragon Drum Dancers Wear Spectacular Robes

The performers, the lamas of the lamasery, finally made their appearance one by one, after a long wait. Thus began the dance, in which the dancers wear masks of all sorts and robes in gorgeous hues with colourful ribbons on their waist. They had leather boots on. To the rhythm of drums and cymbals, they quickened or slowed down their steps, making big or small strides and swayed their bodies as the tempo demanded, waving Buddhist instruments according to music all the while.

Apart from traditional dances on the theme of retribution — good will be rewarded with good, and evil with evil, and transmigration of life and death on the wheel of life as embodied in the dance of the Fa Wang (King of Law) and Royal Deer Dance, there are also folk dances. One group of dancers wear the head gear and dragon robes of ancient Chinese emperors with cloud and wave design plus the image of a huge dragon. This dance as performed here has deviated from its traditional Tibetan flavour. It is known as the Dragon Drum Dance.

Holding a sheep skin drum with an auspicious design on it, the dancers beat the instrument as they change formation from time to time during the dance. They execute different movements, exhibiting the dragon wagging its tail or two dragons parting water as well as a dragon turning itself round and round. In this way they offer their tribute to the dragon. The dance having lasted well over a quarter of an hour, each dancer displays undiminished vigour at the end.

The most interesting thing about the dance is that during intervals in the programme, a clown performs humorous actions to make spectators laugh, providing a light moment for an otherwise solemn occasion. He assumes duties of maintaining order by giving those who trespass into the holy ground a blow with a cloth-made bag as punishment. However, children who inadvertently intrude into the stage area are

Performers blowing the traditional conch

Impressive float portrayal of Padmasambhava, the Lotus Master

escorted back to their mothers. The clowns are not lamas, but folk theatrical performers.

Dance Revised with Human Interest

Some dances are centred on animal themes. The traditional Lion Dance, for instance, is divided into snow-covered mountain lion and plain lion versions. The lion turns and tumbles. This requires great acrobatic skill and co-ordination on the part of the dancers. On the other hand, the Fairy Crane Dance is a duet between the God of Longevity and the bird, symbolizing good luck and happiness.

The Dangka Buddha's Dance is chiefly distinguished from the Buddha's Dance in other lamaseries by the transformation of more of its aspects into a light performance with human interest from an otherwise traditional and solemn religious ceremony. This change in emphasis makes the atmosphere free and relaxed, with accompanying feelings of cordiality among the audience.

Manifestation of the difference from traditional Buddha's Dances in form and costume is that the Dangka version of the Buddha's Dance has absorbed something from the performing art of local Han operas. The masks are no longer the primitive, crude and horrible looking ones seen elsewhere, but rather kind and loving human faces, much like the donors and monks in the audience who watch the dance. The costumes are exquisite, refined and varied. Some are almost exact replicas of traditional opera costumes used in Han nationality areas. Even the musical instrument, the *suona* horn, played by musicians also is a Han Chinese instrument calling the tune for a change in the Buddha's Dance ceremony.

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Translated by He Fei

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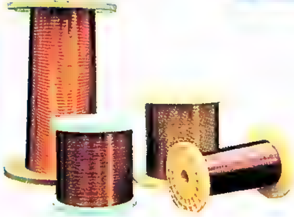

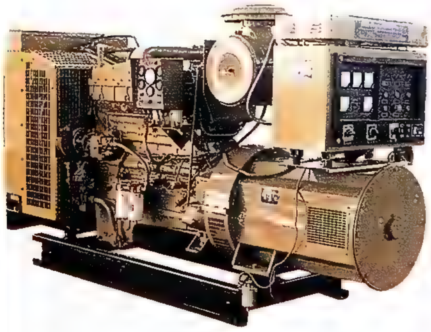

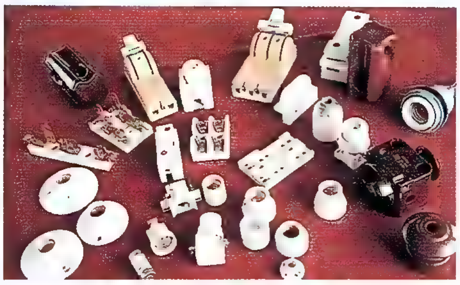

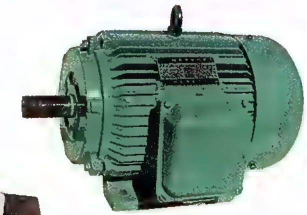

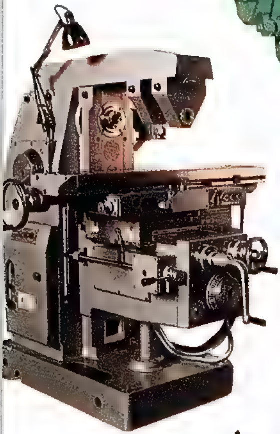

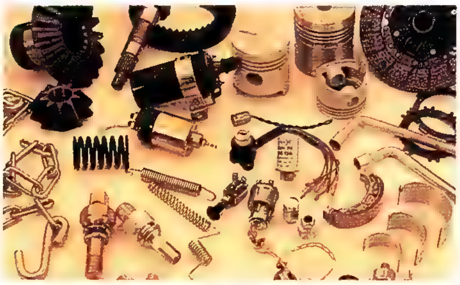

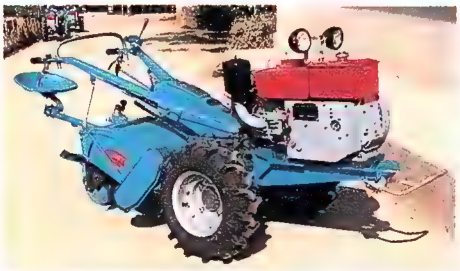

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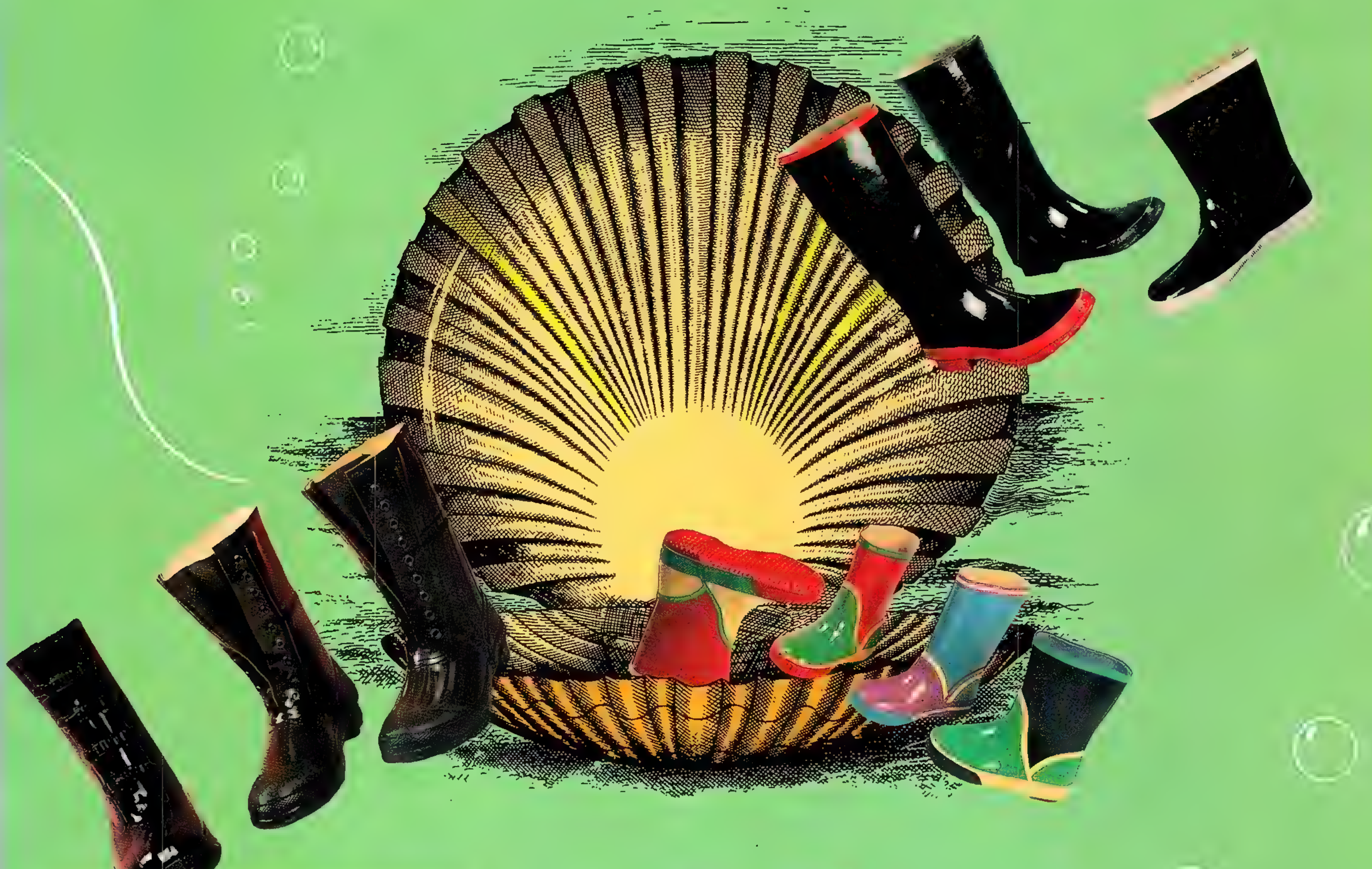

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	31-35	10	11	10	48×27×49
IP04 RUBBER BOOTS	22-26	10	9	8	41×21×36
	27-30	10	10	9	43×24×42
	31-35	10	11	10	48×27×49
IP02	22-26	10	9	8	41×21×36
	27-30	10	10	9	43×24×42
	31-35	10	11	10	48×27×49
3401-1 3401-2 LABOUR PROTECTIVE BOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58×32×31
3402 OVERBOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58×32×31
IP10 RUBBER BOOTS	26-33	12	12	11	48×23×48
	34-38	12	13	12	49×25×57
	39-42	12	14	13	52×29×58
	43-46	12	15	14	56×33×59
3901 INDUSTRIAL BOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58×32×31

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净重 500 克
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珍眉
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EVER-GREEN
SHANGHAI,CHINA NET: 300g(10.58oz)
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BICYCLE CORPORATION
[GROUP]

SHANGHAI BICYCLE CORPORATION (GROUP)
ADD: 817 DONG DA MING RD
CABLE: BICYCLE SHANGHAI

TELEX: 30149 SBIEB CN
TEL: 5458706
FAX: 86-21-5458814

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Guangxi Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation was founded in 1953. It is one of the leading import and export corporations in Guangxi, P.R.China, with its annual export volume exceeding 100 million U.S.dollars. There are about 150 items handled by this corporation which are sold to over 100 countries and regions including Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Southeast Asia, America, Europe, Oceania, Middle and Near East, etc., and enjoying a good reputation in the international market.

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General Manager : Mr. Zhu Zhenhua (Representative of Legal Person)

Deputy General Managers : Mr. Yang Xixiu, Mr.Wu Hanxin, Mr. Chen Xi, Mr. Hua Yun

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電傳：33108 SEIEC CN　傳眞：(021)3240992　聯系人：趙四行(市場經理)
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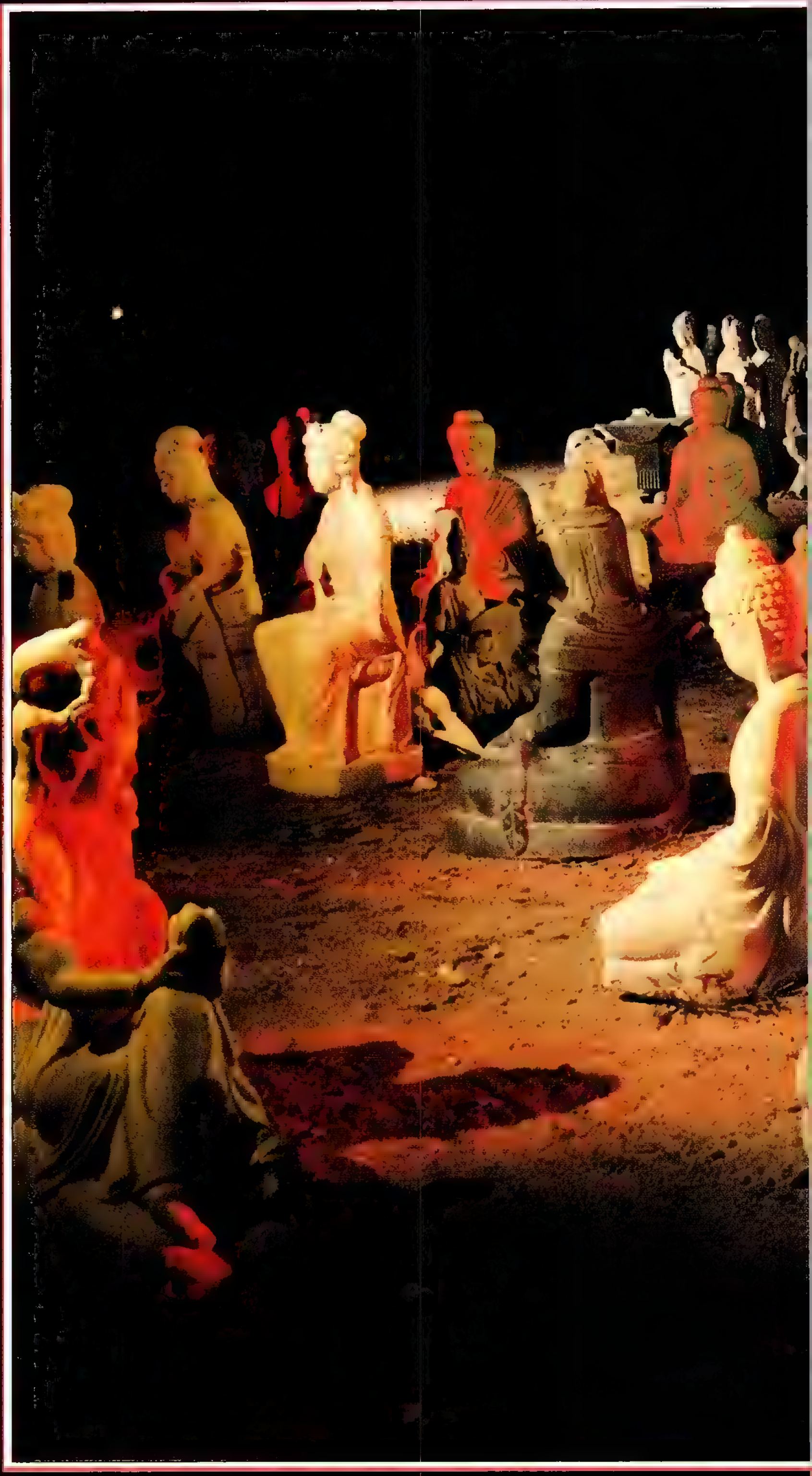
The Stone Sculptures of Quyang

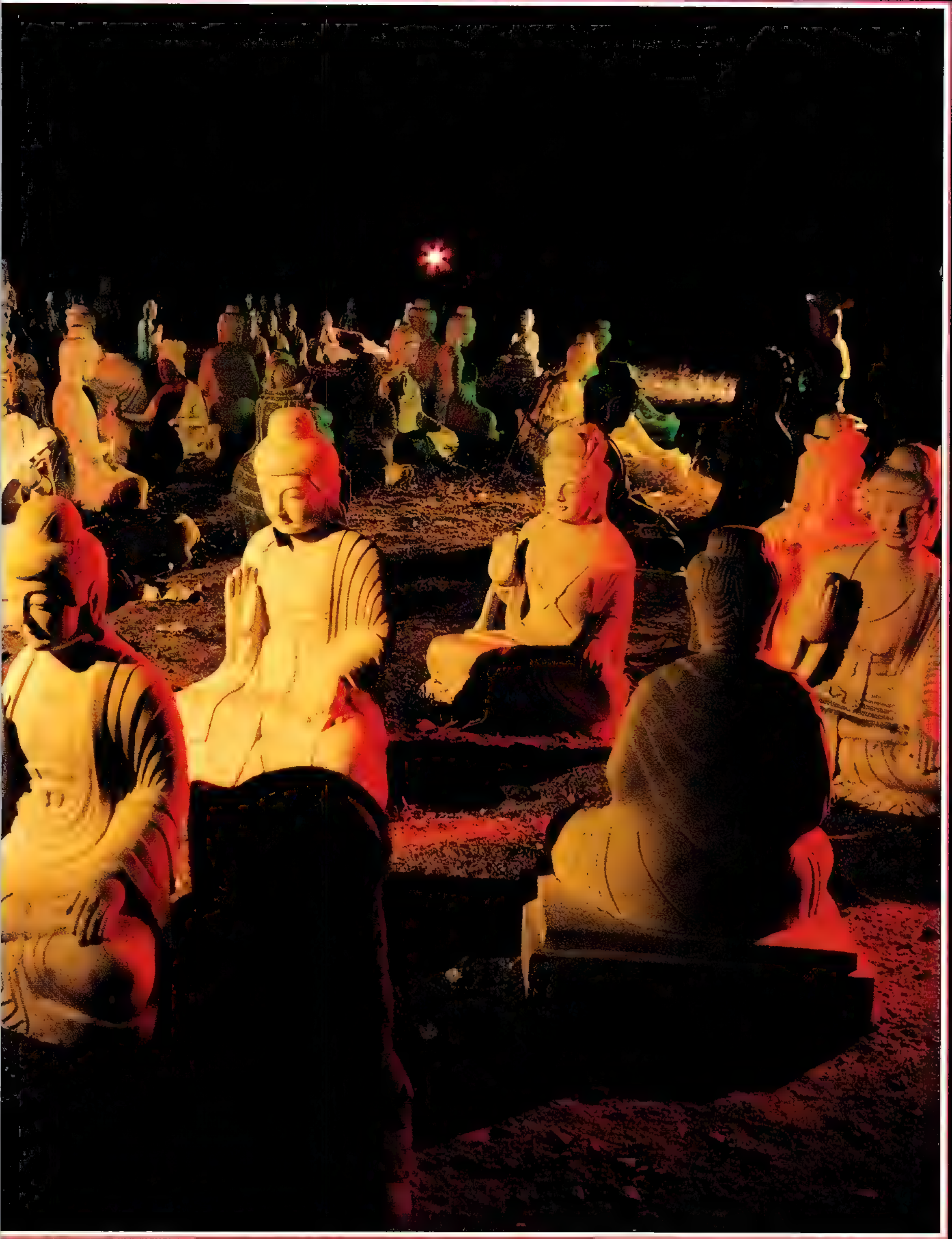
PHOTOGRAPHER: FU XIN

In a shadowed corner of the Quyang Stone Sculpture Factory in Hebei Province, a collection of serene-looking Buddhas are seated haphazardly creating a sacred congregation full of mystery and serendipity.

Situated about one hundred kilometres north of Shijiazhuang City, Quyang has long been famous for its exquisite stone sculptures. The mountains to the south of Quyang provide the fine quality white stone for the sculpted pieces and the villages around the mountains have for ages been producing the skillful stone sculptors. The craft of these artisans has passed down from generation to generation, giving Quyang its long-held fame as a great centre for stone sculpture.

Probably one of the best places to see the sculptors at work is Xiyangping Village where small groups of villagers toil away in small makeshift workshops. So important is this occupation to the area that not only do the sturdy men there work at producing the fine works of art for which the place is famous, but the young women also have found a niche in the industry.

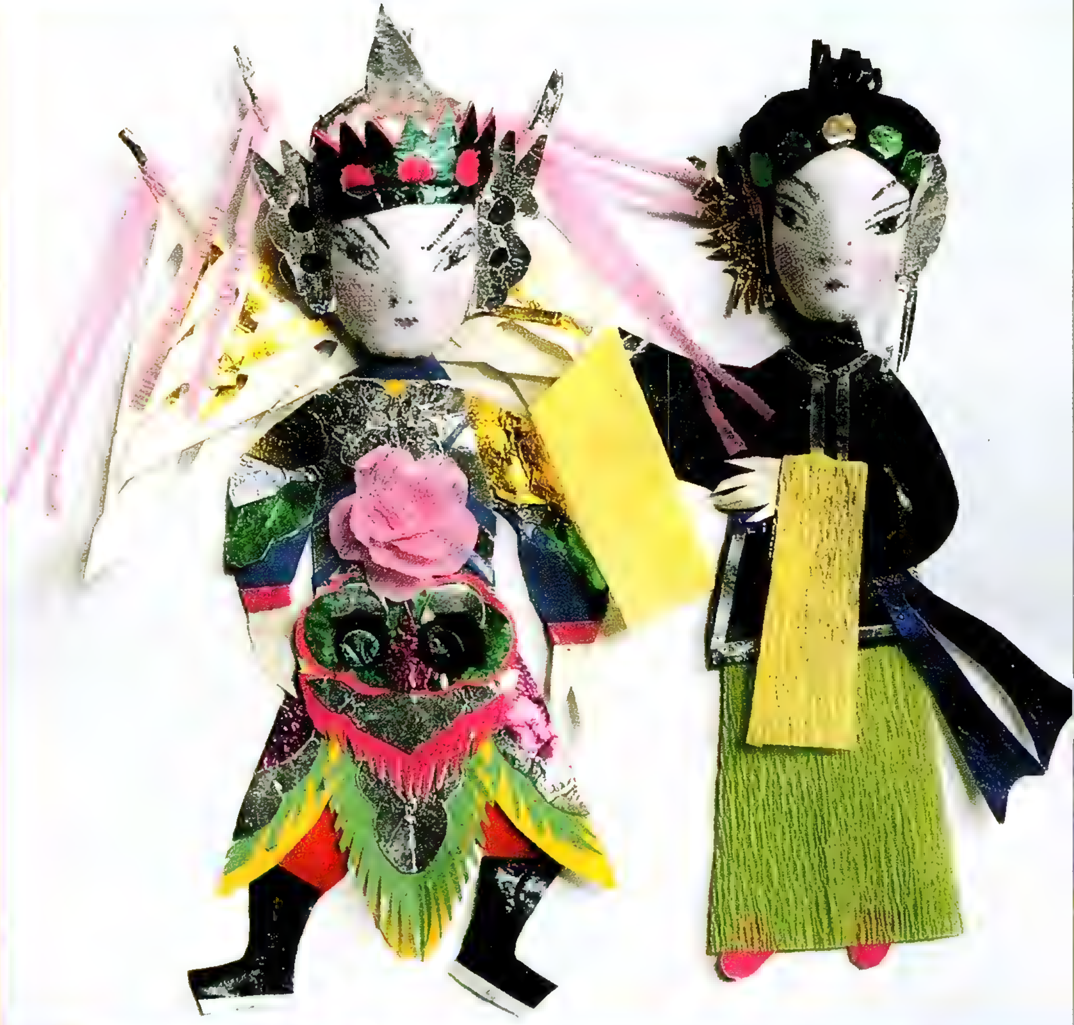


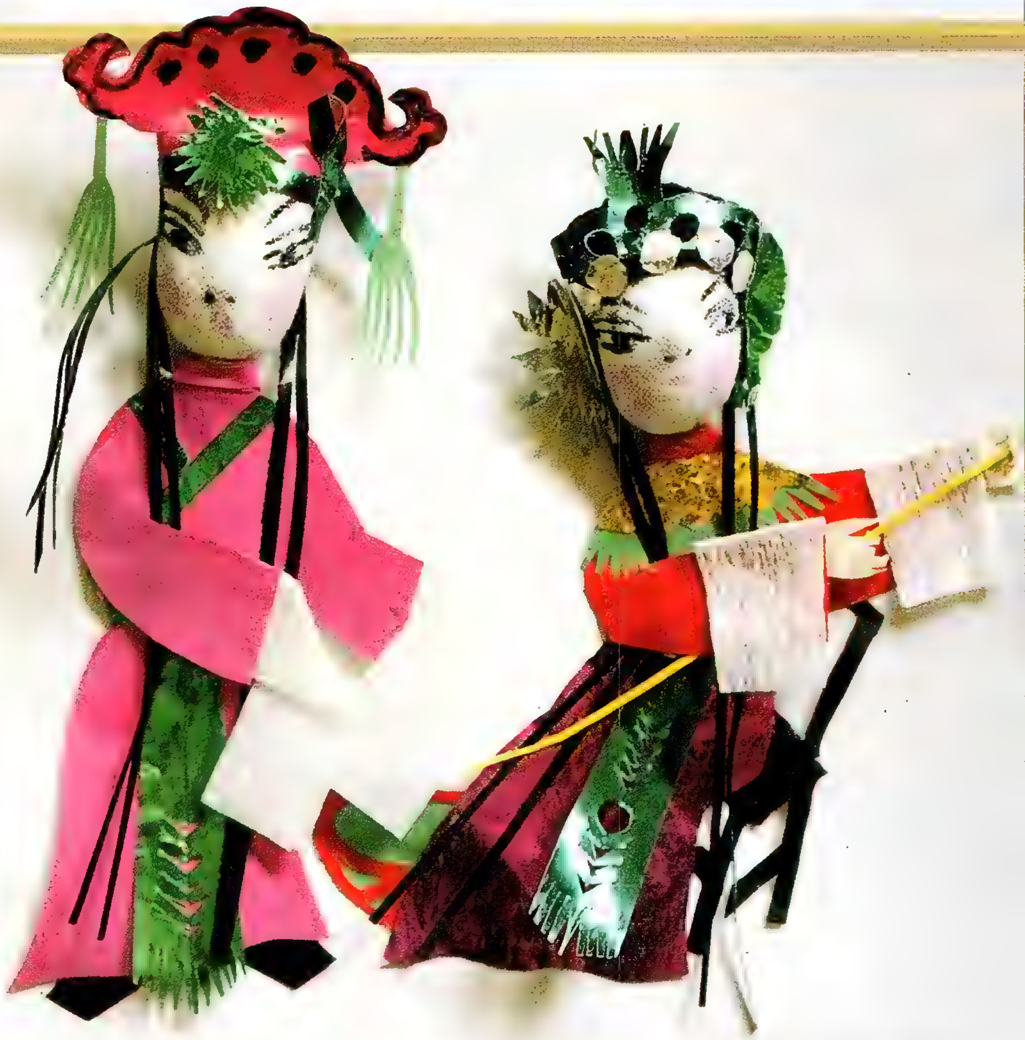


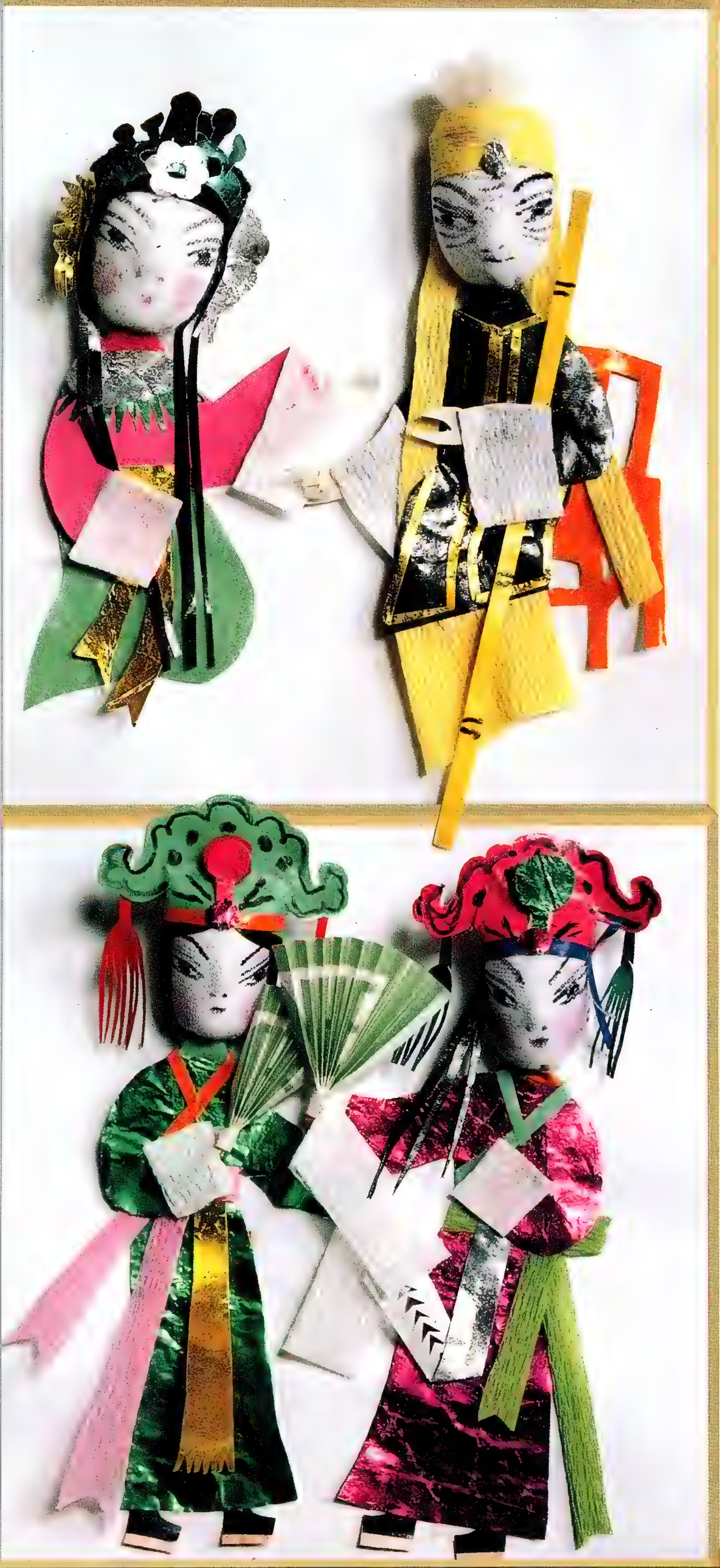
THINGS CHINESE

Unique Layered-Paper Window Pane Decoration

PHOTOS & TEXT BY LIU JILIN







Decorative window pane paper-cuts can be seen everywhere in northern China at festival times and on other happy occasions. But layered-paper window pane decorations are exclusive to Heyang County in Shaanxi Province. The original creator of this art is a village woman in Heyang. She mostly derives her themes from popular dramas such as "Interrogating Hong Niang with Torture", an episode from *The Western Chamber,* "Sending Off" from *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai.*

Unlike ordinary paper-cut decorations for window panes, the figures in this type, standing out in bas-relief, look almost three dimensional and have a higher decorative appeal. The head of the figure is made of cotton wrapped and sewn with a piece of white satin on which the facial features are dabbed with a touch of rouge added to the cheeks. A red dot representing the lips adds a certain charm to the figure. Add a layered-paper shawl, phoenix-winged helmet or refined headdress and the bas-relief head is completed. Fashioning the attire and the body of the figure is actually accomplished in a single process. First, the dress is tailored with coloured paper to fit the figure and then the rest of the body is pasted to it with the final step being the union of the head and the body. A layered-paper window pane decoration combining cutting, sewing, folding and painting is thus created.

Shaoxing Wine China's Best-Known

Among the many different kinds of Chinese yellow rice wine, Shaoxing Wine, which has a long history, is one of the best. It is named after Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province, where it has been traditionally produced, and as it is brewed with water from Jianhu Lake, it is also known as Jianhu Wine. Shaoxing Wine is usually aged in a cellar for a long time before being brought to market, and that wine which has been aged the longest is considered the best. So local people refer to Shaoxing Wine as "Old Wine".

Shaoxing Wine is highly aromatic with a pleasant fragrance, and is mellow with a unique flavour. There are many varieties, and each different kind has distinctive features in terms of colour, fragrance and taste. An undistilled wine brewed mainly from glutinous rice, with an alcoholic content ranging between fifteen and twenty per cent, and differing according to variety, this wine contains many trace elements and is especially rich in amino acids. Shaoxing Wine is a nourishing alcoholic beverage, and when imbibed in moderation it can whet the appetite, aid digestion and relieve fatigue. It has also been used as a condiment for cooking.

Shaoxing Wine originated very early in history, more than 2,300 years ago during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). Shanyin Wine which was Shaoxing Wine in silver bottles became renowned during the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589). The wine was awarded a gold medal and silver medal in 1915 and 1925 respectively at international fairs. In 1956, it was honoured as one of the eight famous wines in China. In August 1978 the National Wine Appraisal Committee selected eighteen wines as the best in China, and three of them came from Shaoxing, namely Jiafan Wine, Yuanhong Wine and Shanniang Wine. In 1986 Shaoxing Wine won a gold medal at the 12th International Food Fair held in Paris.

Why, then, does Shaoxing Wine have such an excellent reputation both at home and abroad? The reasons are the materials used and its brewing process. The main ingredients in Shaoxing Wine are top-quality glutinous rice and wheat leaven. Every winter, the producers steam glutinous rice and put leaven into the steamed rice as an agent of fermentation. When the wine is ready, they place it in jars and store it in the cellar. The colder the weather, the better the finished wine. The second reason is because of the Jianhu Lake water it uses. A major source of Jianhu Lake water is the Kuaiji Mountain. It runs through undulating, emerald green mountains and is filtrated and purified in arenaceous rocks before it enters the Jianhu Lake. The clear lake water contains many minerals, and its quality is ideal for wine-making from the tenth month of the lunar calendar to the second month the following year. Shaoxing Wine is brewed using the water taken from the Jianhu Lake during this period of time.

Why is Shaoxing Wine also referred to as O Wine? Usually, the brewing of Shaoxing Wir takes about a hundred days but it is cellared fo at least three or five years and sometimes eve ten to twenty years. The wine takes as its mott "the longer it is cellared, the more mellow becomes". The oldest Shaoxing Wine is calle "Huadiao" (bottled in jars carved with patterns or "Nü'erjiu" (daughter's wine). There is a interesting story behind the names. After a girl born, her parents brew the wine when she one month old. They put the wine in carved ja and keep it in the cellar until their daughte grows up and marries, at which time they tak the wine out to entertain guests at the weddin Because the cellaring time is so long, the wine especially fragrant and mellow.

Shaoxing Wine has undergone a long perio of development and has introduced new cre tions in each of the previous dynasties, when i ingredients and brewing methods have change from time to time. Each of these different v rieties has its own unique flavour. There are s principal genres of Shaoxing Wine.

Yuanhong Wine

This type of wine has received its name b cause it is bottled in bright red jars. It is the typ of Shaoxing Wine most commonly seen. Tho oughly fermented and with very little sugar co tent, this wine is orange-coloured, transparen sheeny and uniquely fragrant. With an alcohol content of around fifteen to sixteen per cent, tastes slightly bitter. Yuanhong Wine is usual

Glutinous rice is first washed and steamed before use.

Traditional Rice Wine

PHOTOS BY QIAN MING

ellared for one to three years before it is put on he market. It must be heated before drinking. It s most enjoyable when drunk with chicken and luck.

Jiafan Wine

This kind of wine is so named because glutinous rice is added during fermentation. As it is nade with more ingredients, it has a better qualy and tastes more mellow, ranking first among he different types of Shaoxing Wine. This wine dark yellow and extremely fragrant. It has a igher sugar content than Yuanhong Wine, thus, tastes a bit sweeter. Its alcoholic content is bout sixteen to seventeen per cent, while its cidity is below 0.45 per cent.

Jiafan Wine also needs to be heated before rinking. It is more savoury if long-cellared Jiafan Vine is combined with some Yuanhong Wine or ewly brewed Jiafan Wine. Jiafan Wine is most uitable with cold dishes.

Shanniang Wine

This type of wine is characterized by its nethod of brewing. Yuanhong Wine which has lready been cellared for one to three years is laced into a large jar and then fermented. After ermentation, it needs to be cellared once again or one to three years before it is put on the narket. This deep yellow wine, which has a reater sugar content, is sweet, refreshing, melow and fragrant. Its alcoholic content is thirteen o fourteen per cent which makes it special mong the various types of Shaoxing Wine. Slightly heated Shanniang Wine best accompanies sweet dishes.

Xiangxue Wine

This wine was formerly placed on top of bottled Yuanhong Wine in order to enhance the fragrance and taste of Yuanhong Wine. It was originally not intended for sale. In the last two or three decades a new type was developed for the market place. While not as strong as white spirits, it offers all the good features for which Shaoxing Wine is renowned. With a rich amber colour, Xiangxue Wine is rather viscous and highly aromatic and has about a twenty per cent alcoholic content. Its sugar content ranges from twenty to twenty-four per cent. Because it is particularly sweet and refreshing, this type of wine has been widely welcomed by consumers and exported to Southeast Asia, where it has found a considerable market.

Xiangxue Wine does not need to be heated before drinking. It is good if you drink a small amount of it before or after meals, as it can aid digestion. If you add some soda water to it, it will be tastier and more mellow; if you add some white spirits to it, it will have a stronger alcoholic flavour.

Zhuyeqing Wine

This wine has a light green colour. It is made by adding the pigments from tender green bamboo leaves to Yuanhong Wine. These pigments are extracted from the leaves plucked during the same year by boiling them at high temperature. It is uniquely fragrant and tasty but a bit bitter. Typically it has an alcoholic content of about fifteen per cent. It sells well in northern China, Hong Kong and other parts of the world. Zhuyeqing Wine does not need to be heated before drinking. Iced Zhuyeqing Wine is perhaps best appreciated during the summer. It is particularly enjoyable when served with fish.

Huadiao Wine

Shaoxing Wine becomes more mellow and more fragrant the longer it is cellared. Since long ago, wine makers have bottled the cellared wine in jars decorated with patterns of flowers, birds, fish and insects as well as scenes from folktales and figures from dramas. This type of wine has a strong tradition of old China, and people call it Huadiao Wine. ☪

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

Some Major Enterprises and Wineshops in Zhejiang

Zhejiang Cereals, Oils & Foodstuffs I/E Corporation
浙江省糧油食品進出口公司
102 Fengqi Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang
Tel: 554408, 557532
Telex: 35012 CEROF CN
Fax: (0571) 552514

Shaoxing Brewery
紹興酒廠
Beihaiqiao, Shaoxing, Zhejiang

Xianheng Wineshop
咸亨酒店
44 Luxun Road, Shaoxing, Zhejiang
Tel: 33619

Shaoxing Wine in jars is shipped to be sold elsewhere.

EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

Some Hotels in Guangzhou

During the spring and autumn sessions of the Chinese Export Commodities Fair, hotels in Guangzhou are crowded with guests. The hotels closest to the venue of the fair are fully booked long before the fair begins. Owing to the favourable geographical position of Guangzhou, its traditional role as an entrepot in southern China and its convenient transport to and from Hong Kong, Macau and other areas of the world, businessmen and tourists alike come and go in great numbers even in ordinary times. Thus, business in Guangzhou's hotels is thriving.

Since businessmen and tourists come from different countries all around the world and are of different consumption levels, there appear in Guangzhou a variety of hotels in different styles and of different grades, each of which attracts its own distinctive clientele.

In Guangzhou and in all of China for that matter, five-star hotels are mostly Chinese-foreign joint ventures. But **Dong Fang Hotel,** which has a history of over thirty years, is Chinese owned and managed.

Dong Fang Hotel stands facing the venue of the trade fair and is just across the street. At first sight, what impresses people is the traditional palace-style arch gate at the entrance of the premises of the hotel. Above the archway are the four gilded Chinese characters for Dong Fang Hotel.

Passing through the lobby, one comes to the huge garden between the east and west wings of the hotel. It is said that the garden occupies an area of over 10,000 square metres. On both sides of the stone path bisecting the garden are pavilions, rockeries and bridges zigzagging over a pond. In the pond stands a stone statue of the legendary auspicious five rams with colourful goldfish competing with each other for food in the waters. Wandering about in this garden makes one feel that it combines the exquisite architecture of the gardens south of the Five Ridges and the elegant layout of ponds and rockeries found in Suzhou gardens.

Dong Fang Hotel is also famous for its 45 big and small restaurants, which seat 3,000 diners. These restaurants altogether offer over 1,000 dishes and pastry.

Hotel Landmark Canton, a diamond-shaped building by the Haizhu Square, towers thirty-nine storeys above the centre of Guangzhou. On the surface near the top of the hotel is the emblem of the hotel — a dragon cutting through the waves with its head up. This emblem signifies that all overseas Chinese are descendants of the dragon, which is the traditional symbol of the Chinese people.

The predecessor of the Hotel Landmark Canton was the Huaqiao Hotel which was first built over thirty years ago. Due to its favourable location, the hotel was often frequented by overseas Chinese and earned the nickname the "Home of Overseas Chinese". With the rapid development of the hotel industry in Guangzhou, the hotel obviously lagged behind, thus management was motivated to rebuild the hotel. More than this, the management staff contracted from Hong Kong have as their mission upgrading the service of the Hotel Landmark Canton.

The hotel has over 700 guest rooms. Owing to the unique design, guests in most of the rooms can appreciate a panorama including the meandering Pearl River and the Eight Views of Guangzhou. It is very convenient for guests staying in this hotel to exercise in the Haizhu Square in the morning, and go for a night cruise along the Pearl River; or go to visit the night markets in Changdi and Beijing Road, and sample some local delicacies there.

The restaurants in this hotel are perhaps best known for their Chaozhou (Chiuchow) cuisine, the fame of which has spread far and wide.

If one walks in a westward direction along Liuhua Road, on which the venue of the trade fair is located, after crossing an intersection, one comes to a boulevard. Standing by the side of the boulevard some 300 metres from the intersection is the **China Merchants Hotel.**

Separated from the downtown area by a vast lake, green meadows and groves in the Liuhua Park, the hotel is situated in a relatively quiet area of Guangzhou. The hotel seems to be a bit remote from downtown, but actually it is only 500 metres from the railway station and only a ten-minute ride from the Baiyun Airport or the hovercraft wharf.

The outside walls and the walls of the lobby alike are painted light grey. Colourfu flags are hung in the lobby, which is als decorated with many potted flowers, potte landscapes and delicately arranged flowe cuttings. The quiet and graceful atmosphere entices many businessmen, especially those from Europe and North America, to stay i this hotel. The hotel also offers offices fo rent. Its Cafe de Eden in Western European architectural style is comfortable When night falls, candles on the dinin tables are lit and a pianist begin to play music creating a romantic ambiance.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

An Min

Major Hotels in Guangdong, Zhejiang, Guangxi, Fujian and Hainan

Guangzhou, Guangdong

Aiqun Hotel
愛群大酒店
113 Yanjiang Xi Rd., Guangzhou, 510120
Tel: 661445 Telex: 44706 AQHTL CN Fax: 883519
GM: Xu Miaoxia
Opened 1937
Over 370 rooms Rates: Double HK$220/235
Facilities: Over 10 Chinese and Western restaurants and a revolving restaurant at top of new wing, nightclub, disco, beauty parlour, barber shop, shopping arcade

Baiyun Hotel
白雲賓館
367 Huan Shi Dong Rd., Guangzhou, 510060
Tel: 333998 Telex: 44327 BYHTL CN Fax: 336498
GM: Tao Pingan
Opened 1976
Over 700 rooms Rates: Double HK$220
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade

Central Hotel
中央酒店
33 Ji Chang Rd., San Yuan Li, Guangzhou
Tel: 678331 Telex: 44664 GICSO CN Fax: 663191
GM: William Kwok
Opened 28 September 1986
234 rooms and suites Rates: Standard double FEC ¥400/460/1700
Location: 2nd to 6th floors of Guangzhou International Centre of Science, Technology, Trade & Exhibition
Facilities: Business centre, 5 exhibition halls and 45 business offices, conference centre, Chinese and Western restaurants, swimming pool, gym, billiard room, karaoke, beauty parlour, shopping arcade

China Hotel
中國大酒店
Liu Hua Rd., Guangzhou 510015
Tel: 666888 Telex: 44888 CHLGZ CN Fax: 677014
GM: Brandon Lee
Opened June 1984

1,017 rooms Rates: Standard single US$80, twin US$85/US$140/160/185
Located in city centre, 500 metres from railway station, 10-15 minutes' drive from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport: within FEC ¥10
Facilities: Business centre, 13,700-sq-ft ballroom and 12 function rooms, 14 Chinese and Western restaurants, tennis court, swimming pool, shopping arcades, bowling centre, billiard room, health club, beauty salon and hairdressers

China Merchants Hotel

招商賓館

111-8 Liuhua Rd., Guangzhou, Guangdong 510010
Tel: 6681988 Fax: (020) 6662680
240 rooms
Located in city centre, next to the Guangzhou Trade Fair and opposite the Liuhua Lake, 10 minutes' drive from Baiyun Airport, 500 metres from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, gym, billiard room, sauna, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Dong Fang Hotel

東方賓館

120 Liu Hua Rd., Guangzhou 510016
Tel: 669900 Telex: 44439 GZDFH CN Fax: 662775
GM: Chen Rufeng
Opened 1961
1,300 rooms and suites Rates: Single/twin HK$245-310
Facilities: Business centre, convention centre, classical gardens, 50 restaurants including Chinese, Japanese, French and American, recreation centre, amusement park, tennis court, sauna, swimming pool, bowling alley, shops

Hotel Equatorial Guangzhou

廣州貴都酒店
931 Renmin Rd., Guangzhou
Tel: 672888 Telex: 441168 EQUAT CN
Fax: 672582, 672583
GM: Steve Lam
Opened July 1989
300 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$75, deluxe US$90, suite US$150, presidential suite US$300
Located 15 minutes from airport, 5 minutes from railway station
Facilities: Business and convention centre, Chinese and Western restaurants including Japanese, swimming pool, health centre, karaoke, disco, banquet and conference rooms, baby-sitting, medical service

Fu Ho Hotel Guangzhou

廣州富豪酒店
27-33 Chuang Bian Rd., Guangzhou
Tel: 338238 Fax: 338968
GM: Wen Wenwei
Opened 6 August 1987
74 rooms Rates: Standard US$28/FEC ¥218, deluxe suite US$87/FEC ¥450
Located near the Law & Notary Public Offices of Guangzhou City & Guangdong Province, 5 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, conference rooms, restaurants, karaoke, bar

The Garden Hotel

花園酒店
368 Huanshi Dong Rd., Guangzhou
Tel: 338989 Telex: 44788 GDHTL CN Fax: 350467
1,112 rooms and suites
Executive Floor: room US$113, suite US$178; Resident suite: US$178/230
Distances from: airport 20 min, railway station 10 min
Facilities: Fully-equipped business centre, convention hall/banquet room, 8 function rooms, Chinese and Western restaurants including Italian and English pub, disco, shopping arcade, hair and beauty salon, children's playground, clinic, baby-sitting, health club, swimming pool, squash courts, tennis courts, snooker hall

Guangdong Guesthouse

廣東迎賓館
603 Jiefang Rd. North, Guangzhou 510030
Tel: 332950 Telex: 44755 GGGHE CN Fax: 332911
GM: Mai Qianhong
319 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$38
Distances from: airport 7 km (taxi fare about Rmb¥10), railway station 3 km
Facilities: Banquet hall, restaurants, car rental, beauty salon, shops

Guangdong Victory Hotel

廣東勝利賓館
54 Shamian St., Guangzhou 510130
Tel: 862622 Telex: 441163 Fax: 862413
GM: Yang Junying
Room rate: US$21.26
Located on Shamian Island, 20 min from railway station
Facilities: Business room, conference room, 12 restaurants including French, Japanese, Moslem and Chinese, shopping mall, gym, bar

Guangzhou Hotel

廣州賓館
Haizhu Square, Guangzhou 510115
Tel: 338168 Telex: 44336 KCHTL CN Fax: 330791
GM: Wang Zhijian
411 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC ¥150, group rate FEC ¥80
Distances from: airport 7 km (taxi fare about Rmb¥10), railway station 5 km
Facilities: Business centre, shop

Hotel Landmark Canton (Huaqiao Hotel)

華廈大酒店(華僑大廈)

2 Qiaoguang Rd., Haizhu Square, Guangzhou 510115
Tel: (8620) 3355988 Telex: 441288 HLC CN
Fax: (8620) 3336197

Holiday Inn City Centre Guangzhou

廣州文化假日酒店
Huanshi Dong, Overseas Chinese Village, 28 Guangming Rd., Guangzhou 510060
Tel: 766999 Telex: 441045 HICCG CN Fax: 753126
GM: Dominique Nordmann
Opening March 1991
391 rooms and 40 suites Rates: Standard US$90, suite US$130-1,000
Distances from: airport 12 km/20 min, railway station 4 km/10 min
Facilities: Business centre, banquet hall, exhibition hall, 7 function rooms, Chinese and Western restaurants, 500-seat cinema, disco, bar, swimming pool, health club with gym, beauty salon

Liuhua Hotel

流花賓館
194 Huanshi Xi Rd., Guangzhou 510017
Tel: 668800 (Reservation: 664030) Telex: 44298 GZLHH CN
Fax: 667828-2348
GM: Lin Jinhai
700 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Twin HK$260-315
Facilities: 9 Chinese and Western restaurants, multi-purpose conference centre, shops, beauty salon

Nanhu Hotel

南湖賓館
Tonghe, Sha He, Guangzhou 510515
Tel: 706706 Telex: 44511 NANHU CN Fax: 706160
GM: Pan Cheng Yan (Vincent Poon)
370 rooms Rates: Room FEC ¥100/168, suite FEC ¥198/218
Located in the northeastern suburbs, about 10 km from city centre, 6 km/20 min from airport (taxi fare: FEC ¥25), 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Part of the Guangdong Nanhu Tourist Centre with amusement park, boats, horses and shooting ground, villas, Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, swimming pool, dance hall, shopping arcade, business facilities

Ocean Hotel

遠洋賓館
390 Huanshi Rd. East, Guangzhou 510061
Tel: 765988 Telex: 44638 GOHOL CN Fax: 765475
GM: Ma Rong
Around 200 rooms and suites Rates: Twin HK$240-270
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade, dance hall

Oriental Silk Hotel

東方絲綢大廈
752 Dong Feng Dong Rd., Guangzhou 510080
Tel: 762888 Telex: 441181 OSH CN Fax: 750796
Opened 18 March 1990
262 rooms Rates: Double FEC ¥140/180/198, suite FEC ¥210/360
Facilities: Business centre, conference hall, function and banquet rooms, restaurants, silk shopping centre, karaoke, beauty salon, billiard room, health centre, car rental

Overseas Chinese Hotel (Guangzhou)

廣州華僑酒店
90 Zhanqian Rd., Guangzhou 510010
Tel: 663488 Telex: 441178 OCHTL CN Fax: 663230
GM: Deng Dingguang
Opened 1957
400 rooms and suites Rates: Standard single US$25, twin US$30, suite US$33/53
Distances from: airport 20 min (taxi fare Rmb¥8), railway station 0.5 km
Facilities: Business centre, restaurants, bar, coffee shop, conference centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic, billiard room, ballroom

White Swan Hotel

白天鵝賓館
1 Southern St., Shamian Island, Guangzhou 510133
Tel: 886968 ext. 12 Telex: 441163 WSH CN Fax: 861188
GM: Yang Xiaopeng
Opened 1983
1,000 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$90, suite US$140-550
Located 25 minutes from airport, 15 minutes from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants including Japanese, convention and banqueting facilities, 2 swimming pools, health centre

Nanhai, Guangdong

Xiqiao Hill Hotel
西樵山大酒店
Baiyundong, Mt. Xiqiao, Nanhai, Guangdong
Tel: (0757) 686799 Fax: 686545
GM: Liao Minghui
Opened 30 July 1987
150 rooms Rates: US$35
Located 28 km from airport, 20 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, exhibition hall, business centre, shopping arcade, dancing hall, swimming pool, tennis court, cinema

Yuandong Hotel
遠東大酒店
Xiqiao Town, Nanhai, Guangdong 528200
Tel: 56885

Ningbo, Zhejiang

Asia Garden Hotel
亞洲華園賓館
Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315000
Tel: 366888 Telex: 37020 AGHZJ CN
Fax: 362138, 366554
172 rooms and suites Rates: Double US$42, suite US$94/332
Located in the centre of the Foreign Trade Business Area, 20 minutes from airport, 0.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, Chinese (especially the Maple House) and Western restaurants, disco, coffee shop, health club, supermarket, shopping arcade, conference rooms, multi-function hall, karaoke, banquet room, beauty salon

Golden Dragon Hotel
寧波金龍飯店
Nanzhan (Southern Railway Station) Square, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010
Tel: (0574) 318888 (Switchboard) Fax: (0574) 312288
304 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$24/30/36, suite US$80/128
Located opposite the Southern Railway Station about 0.8 kilometre from city centre
Facilities: 14 large and small restaurants, rotating restaurant, Western restaurants, bar, multi-function hall, ballroom, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, karaoke, swimming pool, meeting rooms

Ningbo Hotel
寧波飯店
65 Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315000
Tel: 366334 Telex: 37019 NBHOT CN Fax: 366301
114 rooms and suites Rates: Single US$19, double US$34, suite US$60/85, deluxe suite US$110/135
Located in the heart of the Ningbo Tourism and Foreign Trade Area, 25 minutes from airport, 0.5 km from railway station
Facilities: 6 Chinese-Western restaurants and banquet halls, business centre, multi-function hall, bar, beauty salon, ballroom, boutique, karaoke

Ningbo Hua Qiao Hotel
寧波華僑飯店
130 Liuting Street, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010
Tel: 0574-363175 Telex: 37001 NPHCM CN
Fax: 0574-364790
GM: Chen Furong
Room rates: Single US$26-45, standard US$32, double US$26-36, suite US$70-76
Located in the city centre near the Moon Lake and Tianyige Pavilion
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, disco, bar, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon, business centre

Yonggang Hotel
甬港飯店
105 Baizhang Dong Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315040
Tel: 334621 Fax: (0574)-333626
GM: Gong Quan
Opened 1982
184 rooms and suites Rates: Double FEC ¥144, suite FEC ¥450/600
Located 15 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station
Facilities: 7 meeting rooms, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, bar, billiard room, beauty salon, massage, clinic, business centre, Chinese and Western restaurants

Shaoxing, Zhejiang

Shaoxing Hotel
紹興飯店
9 Huanshan Road, Shaoxing, Zhejiang 312000

Beihai, Guangxi

Beibuwan Hotel
北部灣賓館
Lingyuan Road, Beihai, Guangxi
Tel: 23968

Beihai Furama Hotel
北海富麗華大酒店
Chating Road, Beihai, Guangxi 536000
Tel: 334348, 223411 Telex: 48742 BFRMH CN
Fax: (0799) 331210
GM: Zheng Bin
Opened 26 November 1988
108 rooms Rates: Single/Double US$55, suite US$270/300
Located 24 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport: US$8; railway station: US$2
Facilities: Business centre, sauna, beauty salon, disco, karaoke, billiard room, gym, tennis court, paradise on the sea

Beihai Guesthouse
北海迎賓館
Beibuwan Road Central, Beihai, Guangxi 536000
Tel: 23131

Beihai Hotel
北海賓館
6 Beibuwan Road East, Beihai, Guangxi
Tel: 23511

Overseas Chinese Guesthouse
華僑賓館
Sichuan Road, Beihai, Guangxi 536000
Tel: 23038

Fuzhou, Fujian

Donghu (East Lake) Hotel
東湖賓館
44 Dongda Rd., Fuzhou 350001
Tel: 557755 Telex: 92171 DHHFZ CN
Fax: (0591)-555519
GM: Zhong Dianyuan
Around 300 rooms Rates: Standard US$30-40, suite US$60-150
Located in the hot spring area, 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Banqueting and conference amenities, 7 Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, swimming pool, gym, massage, sauna, billard room

Fujian Foreign Trade Centre Hotel
福建外貿中心酒店
Wusi Rd., Fuzhou
Tel: 550154 Telex: 92158 FTC CN
Fax: 550358
GM: Yin Guoqing
165 rooms Rates: US$44-84
Located in the commercial district
Facilities: Business centre, Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, disco, hot springs

Fuzhou Overseas Chinese Mansion
福州華僑大廈
Wusi Rd., Fuzhou
Tel: 557603 Telex: 92275 OCHFZ CN
Fax: (0591)-550648
GM: Zhang Sunzhu
270 rooms Rates: US$38-43
Completely renovated in 1987
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, hot spring bathwater, massage

Hot Spring Hotel
溫泉大廈
Wusi Rd., Fuzhou 350003
Tel: 551818 Telex: 92180 HSHFZ CN
Fax: (0591)-535150
GM: Yan Jianguo
311 rooms Rates: US$55-150
Located in the heart of the city
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, sauna, conference and banquet rooms, bowling, business centre

Lakeside Hotel Fuzhou
福州西湖大酒店
1 Hubin Rd., Fuzhou 350003
Tel: 539888 Telex: 92265 FLHBC CN
Fax: (0591)-536585
GM: Lu Xiangqian
436 rooms Rates: US$60-150
Located beside the West Lake, the 22-storey hotel is 20 minutes away from the airport and only a few minutes from the commercial district
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, swimming pool, business centre, shopping arcade, massage, disco, billiard room

Minjiang Hotel
閩江飯店
Wusi Rd., Fuzhou
Tel: 557895 Telex: 92146 MJHT CN
Fax: (0591)-551489
GM: Chen Tian'en
402 rooms Rates: US$18-22
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, hot spring bathrooms, shopping arcade

Haikou, Hainan

Donghu Hotel
東湖賓館
Haifu Rd., Haikou
Tel: 23805, 23235
GM: Liang Zhirong

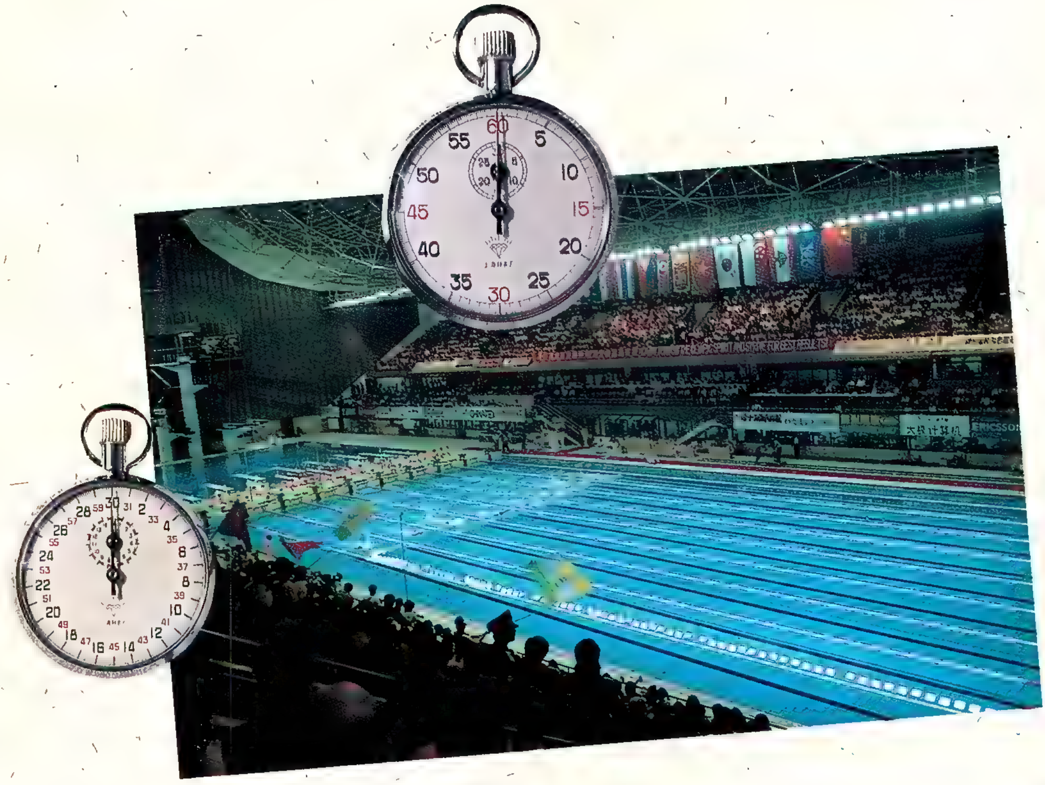
Haikou Tower Hotel
泰華酒店
Binhai Road, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 73990, 73962
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, banquet rooms, swimming pool, tennis courts, shopping arcade

Hainan Hotel
海南賓館
Hongkanpo, Haifu Rd., Haikou
Tel: 23896, 22709
GM: Lan Mingkui

Nantian Hotel
南天大酒店
West Airport Rd., Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 774888 Telex: 45053 NTHTL CN
GM: Liang Mingze
191 rooms and suites Rates: Single FEC ¥124, double FEC ¥185, suite FEC ¥280
Located 1 km from the airport and 2 km from the city centre

Qiongyuan Hotel
琼苑賓館
Niulongpai Rd., Haifu Ave., Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 22613, 22054
GM: Chen Xinjian

Seaview International Hotel
望海國際大酒店
6 Haixiu Rd., Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 24864, 23341, 23438
Facilities: Shopping arcade, Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, meeting room (500 persons), banquet room, bank



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Highlights of Fuzhou

Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province situated on the southeast coast of China near the mouth of the Minjiang River, is one of China's fourteen coastal open cities. The province Fujian as a whole increasingly developed its foreign trade during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and by the time of the Qing (1644-1911), the city flourished economically. Since ancient times, the people have been planting green and lush banyan trees throughout the city, thus, Fuzhou has been dubbed the Banyan City. The most distinctive topographical feature of the city proper is that three hills stand in the distance, namely Yushan Hill, Wushan Hill and Pingshan Hill. Hence "Three Hills" is yet another name for Fuzhou.

In terms of noteworthy monuments, what are collectively known as the Two Pagodas face each other. The Ebony Pagoda, some 33.9 metres tall, erected at the foot of Wushan Hill over a thousand years ago, is the oldest stone structure of its kind in Fujian. The White Pagoda, towering 41 metres above the foot of Yushan Hill, is the tallest ancient structure in the city. From the top floor, one can enjoy a panoramic view of Fuzhou. The business area stretches for five kilometres below, with brilliantly illuminated shops enhancing the view at night.

Fuzhou is also famous for its hot springs which can be found throughout the city. The springs contain sulphur, and bathing in the springs is effective for treating rheumatism and related ailments and skin maladies as well as alleviating fatigue. For added convenience, some of this water is piped directly into hotels.

A trip to Fuzhou should be on a travellers' itinerary when one ventures to this section of China, as there is such a wide variety of places to see which can satisfy a broad spectrum of interests. Some of the more important sites include: Mount Gushan, Yongquan (Gushing Spring) Monastery, West Lake Park, Yushan Hill, Xichan Monastery, Luoxing Pagoda and Mawei Harbour.

Mount Gushan

Mount Gushan lies on the north bank of the Minjiang River some nine kilometres east of downtown Fuzhou. It is called Gushan (Drum Mountain) because according to legend a huge, flat stone in this area supposedly gives off thumping sounds during storms. The 969-metre-high mountain boasts numerous sights and historical monuments and is considered a shrine of Buddhism.

West Lake Park

The West Lake is located in the northwestern part of Fuzhou and is the largest public park in the city, covering some twenty hectares. In 282, Prefect Yan Gao had the water from various mountain streams diverted here for the purpose of irrigating the surrounding fields. The lake and the attractive facilities on its shores became a favourite recreation area. After 1949, the city expanded the lake and lake shore area. Banyan trees and weeping willows line the shore while islets are interlinked by arched bridges or zigzagging crosswalks, presenting visitors with a showcase of traditional Chinese landscaping. Pavilions, terraces and bridges are reflected in the water and provide an interesting walk. The provincial museum is also located here. Numerous historical objects from various dynasties are displayed there. Right next to the park is the West Lake Zoo where performances by giant pandas have long been a constant attraction.

Yushan Hill

Rising 58.6 metres in the centre of Fuzhou is the Yushan Hill. It is often compared to a huge turtle by the inhabitants of Fuzhou. According to legend, the nine He brothers went up the hill to create an elixi of long life, so it is also referred to as the Jiuxian (Nine Immortals) Hill. Interesting temples and carvings dating from the Song and Qing Dynasties, a library and the Fuzhou Painting Studio are the major attractions to be appreciated. In addition, a bird's-eye panorama of Fuzhou City can be enjoyed from the top floor of the White Pagoda on the west slope of Yushan Hill.

The White Pagoda built in 904 is at the foot of the hill to the west. Lightning set fire to the pagoda in 1534, and the wood covering as well as much of the brick frame burned. In 1548, the destroyed remnants were replaced by new bricks, and the entire pagoda was painted white, thus the name.

Xichan Monastery

With over 1,000 years' history, the Xichan Monastery is counted among the five

West Lake Park

major monasteries of Fuzhou. On the fringes of the monastery are over 100 litchi trees; Litchi feasts are held each year when the delicious fruit is in season. The monastery complex includes more than 40 buildings and covers an area of 6.7 hectares.

Luoxing Pagoda and Mawei Harbour

Luoxing Pagoda is located on Mount Luoxing in Mawei Harbour at the lower reaches of the Minjiang River. According to legend, a rich man who lived during the Song Dynasty coveted the beautiful Liu Qiniang. She was married, however, so the rich man falsely accused her husband of a serious crime and the unfortunate man was sentenced to death. After the execution, Liu Qiniang sold all of her belongings and had this stone pagoda built in honour of her husband. The present stone pagoda was restored during the period from 1621-1627. There is an excellent view from the top of the 31.5-metre-high pagoda, and due to its elevated position, it can be seen from afar by sailors.

Yongquan Monastery

Yongquan Monastery is on Mount Gushan at an elevation of 455 metres. Established in 908, it received its name from the fact that there once was a spring inside the monastery. The principal buildings of the monastery complex include Tianwang (Heavenly King) Hall, Mahavira Hall, Shengjian (Sacred Arrows) Hall, Tripitaka Pavilion and Mingyue (Bright Moon) Tower, and Bell and Drum Towers, totalling 25 structures.

Just before the entrance of the monastery stand two ceramic octagonal pagodas, collectively called The Thousand-Buddhas Ceramic Pagodas. These nine-storey pagodas date from 1082 during the Northern Song Dynasty. Each of the pagodas rises seven metres and contains seventy-two earthen bells as well as housing over 1,000 Buddha figurines. Above the actual entrance are emblazoned the golden characters which can be translated as "Gushing Spring Monastery". These characters are the calligraphy of the Qing Emperor Kangxi (reign dates 1662-1722) and were bestowed on the monastery. Another noteworthy feature of the monastery is that it serves as a major repository of Buddhist scriptures with a collection of some 27,000 volumes. The Gushing Spring Monastery has long been referred to as the "Number One Monastery in Fujian" because of its grandeur.

Xiqiao Hill: Scenic Variety in a Dormant Volcano

Travelling from Guangzhou through Foshan and then heading southwest, one would reach Xiqiao Hill in Nanhai. The tree-covered mountain slopes rise steeply above the low-lying Zhujiang River Delta. Actually Xiqiao Hill is a dormant volcano with a lake filling its inactive crater. Xiqiao Hill is one of the two most noteworthy scenic spots in southern Guangdong, the other being the Luofu Mountains (also known as Dongqiao Hill) to the northeast of Guangzhou. Covering an area about ten kilometres in circumference, and with the highest peaks reaching 400 metres above sea level, Xiqiao Hill is best known for its stone caves, clear springs and splashing waterfalls. Bamboos with roughly square trunks and tea grown on mist-shrouded hills are special products of the locality.

Xiqiao's 72 mountains, 36 caves, 21 cliffs, 32 springs and 28 huge waterfalls guarantee that every outing is a lively experience, with the western, eastern and central sections of the mountain particularly interesting. Visitors usually come from the northwest and make their way first to Baiyun (White Cloud) Cave. The use of the cave dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) when a scholar named He Baiyun erected a thatched hut there in order to contemplate the classics in splendid solitude, hence the name. With its ancient buildings having been renovated in recent years and with hotels, swimming pools and drink stands added, this beauty spot is attracting more and more visitors.

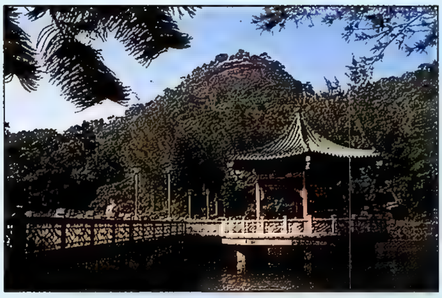
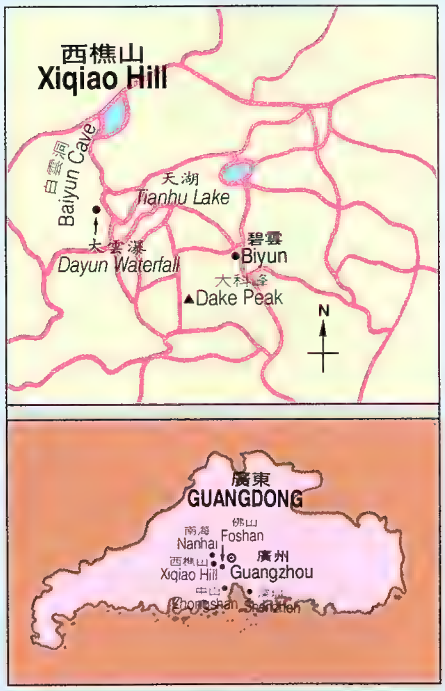


Photo by Peng Zhenge



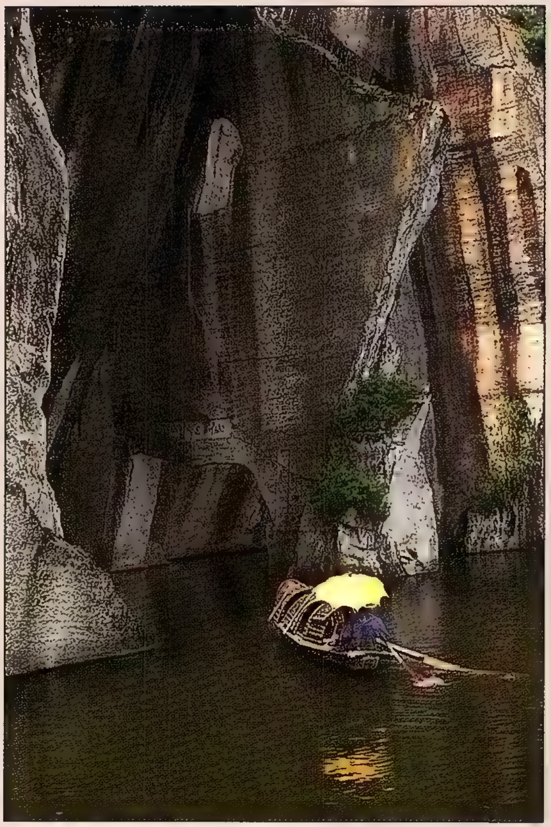
The main peak of Xiqiao, Dake Peak, rises 344 metres above sea level in the centre of the hill. During the Ming Dynasty, a scholar named Zhan Ruoshui established the Dafeng Academy on this peak and gave lectures here for a decade. Unfortunately, the academy was destroyed in 1594. A waterfall is located just outside of Baiyun Cave, and Yunquan Xianguan Hall dating from 1523 is close by. The hall formerly served as an academy. Rebuilt during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), today it is a museum for archaeological relics from the surrounding areas.

In fact there are several waterfalls located here. Among these waterfalls, the most famous is the Dayun (Big Cloud) Waterfall, the source of which is the Tianhu (Heavenly Lake). Perhaps the best-known section to the fall is Longyan (Dragon's Saliva) Fall. The lowest reaches of the fall flows into Baiyun Cave.

On the northeastern slope of Xiqiao Hill, Biyun (Azure Cloud) Village is best noted for its orange osmanthus, many of which are more than 100 years old. The osmanthus flowers are used to enhance flavour in brewing wine.

A fact which makes Xiqiao even more fascinating is that it represents a significant archaeological site. The variety of stone implements especially the "Stone Axe" excavated here date from a culture with a long history during the Neolithic period.

The Ancient City of Shaoxing — A Suggested Three Day Itinerary



Lake Donghu — a natural miniature landscape (by Wang Miao)

First Day: A Visit to the Wine Country

The following places of interest are visited: Xianheng Wine House, the Folklore Museum, Lu Xun Memorial Hall, Sanweishuwu, Baicao Garden, Changqing Monastery, Earth and Cereal Temple, Toulao River and Mount Fushan. In the evening one can enjoy a presentation of Shaoxing Opera in the Workers' Cultural Palace.

Shaoxing is one of the five wine culture cities in China. Shaoxing Yellow Rice Wine has been brewed for more than 2,400 years. Made from choice glutinous rice and the water of the Jianhu Lake, the wine is a nutritious beverage with eight amino acids required by the human body and officially selected in 1988 as one of the alcoholic beverages to be imbibed at state banquets.

When in wine country, it is a must to visit the largest yellow rice wine brewery in Shaoxing. One may take Bus No. 5 to visit the brewery which also features an exhibition of yellow wines and the brewery workshops. As the yellow wine is indispensable to the social life of Shaoxing's inhabitants, wine houses, wine stalls, wine restaurants and wine shops are scattered throughout the city. One may take Bus No. 2, 4 or 5 to get to Lu Xun Road and visit the Xianheng Wineshop once described by Lu Xun, where one may enjoy Shaoxing Wine with a group of friends in the partitioned rooms. There are four different varieties of Shaoxing Wine: Jiafan, Yuanhong, Shanniang and Xianxue. Each of these brews has a different colour, sugar percentage and alcoholic content and hence each also has its own distinctive taste.

The Folklore Museum is also located on Lu Xun Road. It is composed of a Marriage Customs Hall and a Food Customs Hall. In the latter are displayed a great number of wine cups and drinking utensils, and large woodcuts portraying brewery processions. Once on Lu Xun Road one should certainly visit Lu Xun Memorial Hall, Lu Xun's former residence, Sanweishuwu (Three Flavour Study) and his paradise in his childhood — Baicao (Hundred Grass) Garden. One should also stop by Changqing Monastery where he once lodged and Earth and Cereal Temple where Ah Q, the hero in Lu Xun's best-known novel *The True Story of Ah Q*, once lived.

If one goes out and turns left from the Earth and Cereal Temple, one comes to Yan'an Road where one sees Toulao (Pouring Wine) River. This is supposed to be where King Gou Jian (reign dates 497-465 B.C.) of the ancient State of Yue poured wine into the river and drank the water mixed with wine together with his soldiers before he led them into battle to extend the territory of the kingdom, hence the name of the river. If one takes Bus No. 2, 4 or 5 to get to Fuheng Street and enters Mount Fushan, one may see the Yuewang Terrace and Yuewang Hall, named after King of Yue where King Gou Jian used to taste the bitterness of a hung gall and sleep on a litter. Periodically exhibitions of orchids or calligraphy are held here. If time permits, one may take a bus at the bus station or a taxi to visit Dongpu Wine Brewery on the shore of Jianhu Lake.

At seven in the evening one may go to enjoy Shaoxing Opera, a local opera form — in the Workers' Cultural Palace in Xianqian Street.

Second Day: Touring Water Country

The highlights visited on this day are as follows: Lake Donghu, the Mausoleum of Yu the Great, the ancient towpath by boat, Keqiao Town, Jianhu Lake on a pedal boat and Keyan.

In the morning one may take Bus No. 1 to visit Lake Donghu or East Lake, which looks like a natural miniature landscape, and then move on to Mount Bijia (Penholder), Taogong Cave and the Divine Peach Cave by boat and finally return to Renmin Road from where one may take Bus No. 2 to reach the Mausoleum of Yu the Great.

Once back on Renmin Road, one may take Bus No. 5 to Keqiao Town and then take a taxi or a tricycle to cover about three kilometres to arrive at the Towpath Bridge, which itself is five kilometres long. Designated an ancient cultural landmark of great importance, the bridge is now under state protection. Sitting in a pleasure boat pulled in an easterly direction by trackers along the well-protected ancient towpath 386 metres long, one may enjoy pastoral scenery while sipping a cup of Shaoxing Wine, duplicating the pleasure Qing Emperor Qianlong experienced during his many visits to the area south of the Yangtse River. After half an hour, the boat arrives at Taiping Bridge, a multi-arched bridge typical of the numerous stone arch bridges in Shaoxing, the city of bridges. While in Keqiao Town, one may admire the old style houses, stone bridges and boats sailing along the Grand Canal.

If one wants to enjoy the charms of the water country, one may take a pedal boat with black awning, a boat unique to Shaoxing, to roam about Jianhu Lake, the most extensive water conservancy project of the ancient city. After half an hour of boating, one arrives at Keyan, where one can behold the Keyan Buddha, one of the three big Buddhist statues in Zhejiang Province. A three-minute walk heading south brings one out of the fields, from where one may take Bus No. 5 or a taxi to get back to the city of Shaoxing.

Third Day: Poetry and Calligraphy Appreciation Tour

On the final day one can appreciate Lanting Pavilion, a sacred place for calligraphers, Jiezhu Monastery, Tishan Bridge, Qingteng Study and Shenyuan Garden.

Bus No. 3 takes one to Lanting (Orchid Pavilion) where King Gou Jian of the State of Yue planted orchids at the foot of the Lanzhu Mountain and where a pavilion for the horsemen of the courier delivery service was built during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and hence the name of the place. Here one may admire the Three Treasures of Lanting Pavilion one after another — the Lesser Lanting Calligraphy Stele, the Goose Pool Stele and the stelae of Emperor Kangxi and Emperor Qianlong. Nearby is the creek where Wang Xizhi and his fellow men of letters used floating cups of wine as lots for writing poetry. One may visit the Temple of Wang Xizhi, the Ink Pool and the Calligraphy Museum to enjoy the charms of the landscape.

After returning to the bus station to visit Jiezhu Monastery and Tishan Bridge one should head south and then turn left at the first crossroad. From the bridge, one may take Bus No. 2, 4 or 5 to get to Lu Xun Road and then enter Qianguan Lane. Another two-minute walk brings one to the Qingteng Study, the former residence of Xu Wei, founder of the Qingteng Painting School. After the visit, one may take a tricycle to Shenyuan Garden and visit the site where Lu You, a poet during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), had a tragic love experience reflected in his poem entitled "Phoenix-Shaped Hairpin". If one still has some time left, one may visit the former residences of the late Premier Zhou Enlai and Qing Dynasty revolutionary heroine Qiu Jin.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

(Continued from page 30)

Idyllic Wenchang

A Seaside Paradise Complete with Coconut Groves

The bay at Qinglan Harbour is the most beautiful I have ever seen. The Wenchang River empties in its northwest into the sea. For several dozen kilometres from the mouth of the river to the nearby beach spreads what is called the "seabed forest" – the Qinglan Harbour Red Forest Nature Reserve. Southwest of the harbour is Gaolong Bay, an idyllic swimming resort where fine sand stretches scores of kilometres along the clear sea water. The most spectacular sight is the peninsula in the east which is covered by coconut palms.

Having made a half circle allowing me to inspect the bay, the speedboat sailed off to Dongjiao. Drawing near Dongjiao, I found the coconut palm trees standing gracefully but densely on the beach had linked up into a coconut grove seemingly without any boundary. A few fishing boats were being repaired under the shade of the coconut palms and the tinkling sound drifted into my ears. I noticed many more wooden bridges this time compared with my previous visits. At one end they stand in the sea while each of the other ends leads to a wooden house. These houses turned out to be seafood restaurants catering to the needs of tourists. Each restaurant has its own small dock. The end of the bridge in the water not only serves as a dock but also leads to areas reserved for seafood species. Customers can, while stepping onto the dock from the ship that carried them over, choose the seafood to suit their tastes. After a short wait they are served fresh seafood delicacies.

I spent a very restful night in a wooden cabin at the Coconut Grove Holiday Resort in Jianhuashan. Listening to the sea breeze rustling the coconut palm leaves and the rhythm of the sea waves, I was enraptured by a happy and serene feeling.

Coconut Palms: A Living and a Way of Life

Dongjiao occupies a peninsula densely planted with half a million coconut palms, one-tenth of the total number on the entire province. People say coconuts from Wenchang are the best of Hainan Island and Dongjiao produces half of the Wenchang coconuts. From my observation, I found this statement to be true without any exaggeration. Jianhuashan at the tip of the peninsula is the area most densely grown with coconut palms, presenting the most interesting coconut scenery. It has the reputation of "the heart of the land of coconuts".

In the heartland of coconut plantations, villages are surrounded by coconut palms. You will not be able to get a true perspective of the villages until you really get into them. In the villages, the presence of the coconut is more pervasive. The houses people live in are built with coconut palm wood and furnished with coconut palm furniture. Bowls for meals and ladles for getting water are all made from coconut shells or wood, and mattresses on the bed or many other woven articles are made from coconut palm leaves. Most significant is the fact that virtually every task performed by the local farmers is associated with coconuts, as some process coconut meat and shreds, others work on arts and handicrafts carved out of coconut shells, and yet others make coconut woven ware. Even old women produce ropes from coconut fibre. Despite coconut fibres being short and thick, in just a short time they can make a ball of coconut ropes. When it came to eating, I had a first hand opportunity to learn just how important coconuts are from my own experience in drinking coconut juice, having coconut shreds rice, coconut chicken and coconut pastry wrapped up by coconut palm leaves. I even took away with me a whole package of coconut sweets.

The skills of making a living out of coconut palms and their by-products have given rise to what are loosely referred to as "coconut customs and habits" that have been passed down to the villagers from generation to generation.

Some local people told me that planting coconut palms is not the productive concern of coconut farmers only. Whenever there is some kind of celebration in a family, a unit or a village, people will plant coconut palms both as a symbol of good luck and as an object commemorating the happy event. Bearing in mind this local custom, I cannot help thinking that the coconut palms I have seen may well have included those honouring birthdays, engagements and weddings as well as store or shopping centre openings.

Translated by Huang Youyi

Highlights of Beihai

Beihai is a modernized seaside city with a subtropical climate and wonderful seascape including long beaches on three sides of the city, which is perfect for summer vacationing. The weather is mild and the annual average temperature registers 22.6°C, with cool summers and warm winters. The air is crisp and fresh, thus Beihai is an excellent destination for convalescence, vacationing or tourism all year round. The most enjoyable attractions of this seaside resort city are briefly sketched below.

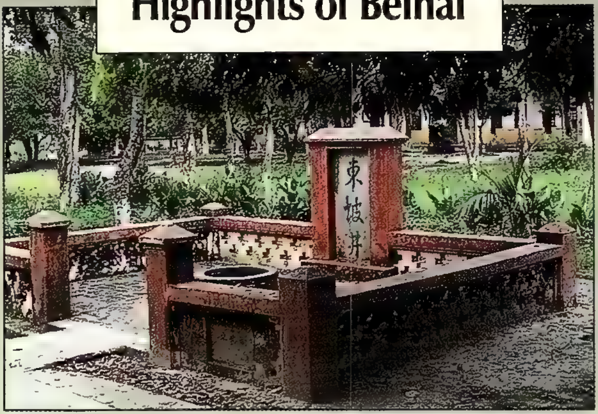
Baihutou Beach Scenic Area

Baihutou Beach is four kilometres from the city, and extends ten kilometres with its widest section spanning half a kilometre from east to west. The beach is virtually level and offers abundant sunshine. The water is crystal clear with a visibility of 200 centimetres and the sand is snowy white. There are few places in the world that offer the ideal combination of clear water and broad beaches. The annual temperature of the water ranges from 15°C to 30°C, thus, it is suitable for swimming and other forms of aquatic sports throughout the year. In addition, Baihutou has a further 8.5 kilometres of coastline that can be used for various recreational activities. The present area available to tourists totally measures seven square kilometres and includes an ample supply of fresh water. Accessible by convenient transportation it has all the charms of a tropical seaside resort that universally appeals to travellers.

Weizhou and Xieyang Islands

Weizhou, 26 square kilometres in area, is 66.7 kilometres due south of the City of Beihai. A fascinating feature is found in the form of two natural arches on the southern tip of this island in the sea. Xieyang, measuring 1.9 square kilometres, is 16.7 kilometres southeast of Weizhou Island. During sunset, one can gain a panoramic view of Xieyang from Weizhou. Since the sun shines at a low angle at sunset, the island has been dubbed Xieyang Island which can be translated as Slanting Sun Island.

The two islands have long enjoyed the reputation of "Greater and Lesser Penglai Islands", with their scenic spots spreading all over the coastal areas. One can view more than forty scenic spots created by sea erosion, sediment deposits, volcanic craters and marine life. However, the best views can be appreciated at sunrise and sunset in Weizhou and from a tour of surrounding islands from where one can behold the entire seascape. Two Catholic cathedrals in French architectural style built during the 1780's stand on the island itself.



Dongpo Well dug by the famous Northern Song writer Su Dongpo in Hepu (by Hu Yongchang)

Mount Guantouling Tourist Area

Mount Guantouling, eight kilometres from Beihai City, is six kilometres in length. It lies southwest of the city and seems to wind like a dragon. From its main peak some 120 metres above sea level, one not only can enjoy sunrise and sunset but also a panoramic view of waves extending several kilometres to where the sky and the sea merge. There are numerous natural terraces interlocking with each other and presenting a potpourri of different scenery. At the foot of the mountain you find the Wanglong Rock, before which the waves crash ashore roaring like thunder. The setting has been described as "listening to waves pounding on the Dragon Rock".

Beihai Aquarium

Beihai Aquarium in Beihai Seaside Park ranks alongside the Qingdao Aquarium as China's two largest aquariums. The building area of the aquarium occupies 1,600 square metres. There are seven halls, tanks, a green turtle pool and a seal pool with 670 species represented by a total of 2,800 specimens. The best attraction is the dugong, a very rare item in any aquarium. You will see the skeleton of a 10,000-kilogram whale, a species of lobster several kilograms in weight, Southern pearls, a green turtle tipping the scales at over 100 kilograms more than 100 years old plus dozens of species of subtropical fish.

Haijiao Pavilion

Haijiao Pavilion is in the Lianzhou Middle School in Hepu. Commemorating Meng Chang, a reformer who eliminated corruption in his jurisdiction to a considerable degree during the Han Dynasty, this pavilion was initially built in the period between 1004 and 1007 during the Northern Song Dynasty. The present pavilion on this site was rebuilt between 1567 and 1572 during the Ming Dynasty. A square brick and wood structure, it is topped by a nine-ridged roof. At the back of the building is a tablet inscribed with the words "Ancient Haijiao Pavilion". There are many bamboo plants around the pavilion. In addition, tall trees here provide excellent shade from the sun, a good resting place for travellers making a tour of Beihai. Inside the pavilion there are many poems inscribed on its walls. The signboard "Wan Li Zhan Tian" written by Su Dongpo, the famous poet, atop the rear entrance lends an antique aura to the atmosphere. The inscription reads "to look up to the sky a distance of 10,000 *li*".

Dongpo Pavilion

Dongpo Pavilion is on the campus of the Hepu Normal School. In 1100, Su Dongpo also known as Su Shi, lived in Qinglexuan for two months, where he wrote many poems and reading notes during his brief stay. In memory of the poet and of his work the Dongpo Pavilion was built on the premises of Qinglexuan. The present pavilion was rebuilt later. There are long corridors around the pavilion which is surrounded by water. The place is quiet, secluded and elegant. On the ridge of the roof, in the side pavilion within the first courtyard, is a carving depicting two phoenixes facing the sun. On the two ends of the eaves are carvings featuring lions holding silk-strip balls. The main pavilion is in the second courtyard. A stone statue of Su Dongpo is encased within the wall. In the corridors are more than a dozen poems and prose by the poet and other literati. There is a well to the east of the pavilion, said to have been dug by the poet. The water in the well is sweet and clean.

Dashi Pavilion

Dashi or Sipailou was first built during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and later renovated in 1576 during the Ming Dynasty. Located in Yong'an Village, Shankou Town, 85 kilometres from Hepu County Seat, it is one of the earliest extant examples of wood architecture in China. The centre piece of this complex is the Hall of Four Columns connected by two open pavilions. It has an area of 203 square metres. The beams and columns are all linked by wooden tenons and mortises. No nails or metal of any kind have ever been used on this structure, which is one of the most outstanding classical Chinese buildings in southern China. All the ridges, eaves, sealed parts, and brackets are full of ornamental carvings or paintings of characters from myths as well as unicorns, dragons, cranes, phoenixes, fantastic animals, fowl and rare species of flowers and grass.

Pearl City

The Pearl City is located in Bailong Village by the Beibu Gulf, 36 kilometres from Hepu. Only 600 metres from the sea, here many cultured pearl oyster ponds are found, the largest being the White Dragon Strawberry Cultured Pearl Oyster Pond. This is a place famous for the production of high-quality cultured pearls, which have enjoyed a reputation as the Southern pearls. In 1374, a city called Bailong (White Dragon) City was established to supervise pearl production. Within a radius of several hundred metres, shimmering pearls were abundant. Thus, it gained the soubriquet "Pearl City". t extended 320 metres from north to south and 233 metres from east to west. All that remains now, however, are sections of a surrounding wall. The original city wall used to be six metres high. The base of the wall had a width of six metres. The masonry on both sides of the wall consisted of four layers of black bricks. The interior of the wall was composed of alternating layers of earth and oyster shells, rammed layer by layer. Four city gates, each facing a different direction of the compass and topped by towers, were the most prominent features of the wall. Now, however, only part of the wall next to the south gate and a section of the wall 2.6 metres high facing east remain standing.

In the old days the emperor dispatched eunuch officials to supervise the production of pearls in the city. A eunuch residential building had been built. Two tablets stand in the southwest suburb of the city in praise of two eunuch officials, Huang and Li, sent as mperial commissioners. Relics of two more tablets also stand, giving an account of the construction of the Ninghai Temple and Tianfei Temple. The tablets are placed on stone tortoises, which are traditionally be-ieved to have great strength to bear a heavy burden. These historic treasures in the ancient Pearl City are certified as cultural relics.

Translated by He Fei

Ferry Schedules from Beihai

Route	Dep.	Arr.	Distance (km)	Fare (¥)
Beihai — Weizhou	09:00	10:30	66.7	15.00
Beihai — Haikou	21:00	09:00 (the following day)	370.4	27.60 (ordinary) 66.60 (VIP)

Major Restaurants in Beihai City

Name	Address	Telephone
Beihai Yingbinguan Restaurant	Beibuwan Road Central	23131
Overseas Chinese Hotel Restaurant	Sichuan Road	23038
Tianhailou Restaurant	Zhongshan Road East	23373
Haibin Restaurant	Jiefang Road	22537
Beihai Hotel Restaurant	Beibuwan Road East	23511
Water Paradise (Haishang Leyuan)	Haidi Street West	24848

Long-Distance Bus Service from Beihai City

Route		Departure	Distance (km)	Fare (¥)
From	To			
Beihai	Nanning	08:40/14:00	213	14.00
	Liuzhou	05:55	416	21.10
	Wuzhou	06:00	456	27.40
	Zhanjiang	07:30/11:55	198	11.00
	Zhuhai	11:00	728	43.60
	Guangzhou	12:00	690	38.00
	Qinzhou	07:25/11:20/18:40	108	5.50
	Fangcheng	06:30/13:40	149	7.60
	Hepu	07:30 *	28	1.50

* Departs every half an hour after 07:30

N.B. Venues of ticket booking and boarding: Huaqiao Hotel, Friendship Store, bus station and Municipal Guesthouse

Flights to and from Beihai, Guangxi

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Guangzhou — Beihai	3 7	08:05	09:05	CZ3335
Beihai — Guangzhou	3 7	09:50	10:50	CZ3336
Shenzhen — Beihai	1 6	08:15	09:20	CZ3951
Beihai — Shenzhen	1 6	10:10	11:20	CZ3952

Flights to and from Fuzhou, Fujian

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Hong Kong — Fuzhou (Charter)	2	11:35	12:50	MU506
	1 3 5	17:55	19:10	MU508
	1 3 4 5 6 7	12:25	13:30	MU506
Fuzhou — Hong Kong (Charter)	2	09:00	10:25	MU505
	1 3 5	15:25	16:55	MU507
	1 3 4 5 6 7	10:00	11:30	MU505

Train Schedules Guangzhou — Fuzhou

268/269 F.T.	Train No. / Station	270/267 F.T.
21:50	**Guangzhou**	10:28
22:57	**Yuantan**	09:02
00:08	**Yingde**	07:49
01:40	**Shaoguan**	06:13
04:37	**Chenzhou**	03:05
07:18	**Hengyang**	00:17
09:30	**Zhuzhou**	22:02
10:32	**Liling**	20:53
13:48	**Xiyu**	17:26
18:42	**Yingtan**	10:00
23:28	**Shaowu**	05:52
03:03	**Nanping**	01:32
04:30	**Gutian**	00:04
06:08	**Fuzhou**	22:17

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

N.B. All trains depart on alternate days

Train Schedules Xiamen — Fuzhou

394/391 O.	Train No. / Station	393/392 O.
17:45	**Xiamen**	07:42
18:12	**Jimei**	07:24
19:25	**Zhangzhou**	06:10
19:57	**Guokeng**	05:42
21:37	**Hua'an**	04:02
22:56	**Zhangping**	02:48
01:24	**Yong'an**	00:16
02:28	**Sanming**	23:04
03:07	**Shaxian**	22:22
04:18	**Laizhou**	21:20
05:01	**Nanping**	20:29
06:27	**Gutian**	19:03
07:24	**Minqing**	18:12
08:20	**Fuzhou**	17:10

O. — Ordinary passenger train

Confucian Mansion Cultural Relics Archives

The Confucian Mansion Cultural Relics Archives were officially opened in Qufu, Shandong Province. The archives, billed as China's first high-grade family archives, are set up in the eastern part of the Confucian Mansion. With an area of 3,960 square metres, the archives include storehouses, exhibition halls and a research centre, which are all installed with modern preservation and research facilities.

Hotels

The **Hyatt Tianjin**'s Regency Club is offering a special package to business travellers effective until December 31, 1992. For US$140 per night, benefits of the package include continental breakfast, use of Regency Club conference room, use of sauna, steam, swimming pool and exercise equipment, and membership in Hyatt's Gold Passport Programme. For reservations call (86) (22) 30 1234 or (852) 7233127 (Hong Kong).

New Air Routes

Beijing-Beihai, Guangxi Air China has recently launched a weekly direct flight on a Boeing 737-300. The 2,430-kilometre flight connecting the two cities takes three hours.

Xiamen, Fujian-Haikou, Hainan Boeing 737 airliners will fly the 1,130-kilometre route every Tuesday and Friday, taking ninety minutes in each direction.

Ningbo, Zhejiang-Hong Kong Regular flights have now begun to be serviced by MD-82 passenger jets between these two cities. Seventeen domestic and overseas services are routed through Ningbo.

Shenzhen, Guangzhou-Sanya, Hainan This new route uses Saab-340 passenger planes manufactured in Sweden.

Archaeological Finds in Guangdong

Archaeologists from the Guangdong Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology have recently unearthed a number of graves, kilns and other relics in Heyuan, Longchuan and Wuhua Counties. The graves in Heyuan County and the relics in Longchuan County date from the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), while the relics and graves found in Wuhua County date back to the Xia and Shang Dynasties (c. 21st-11th century B.C.).

First International Chaozhou Opera Festival

The First International Chaozhou Opera Festival is to be organized by the cities of Shantou, Jieyang and Chaozhou in Guangdong and is scheduled to take place during the Lantern Festival next year. Beginning on February 1, 1993, a variety of performances will be presented by troupes from Guangdong and Fujian and performers from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. At the same time, performances of Beijing Opera, Henan Opera, Guangdong Opera, Sichuan Opera and more will also be featured. More than 1,000 actors and actresses are invited to participate in the festival.

Archaeological Sites Found Near Three Gorges Dam Venue

Thirty-two sites concentrated in an area covering 0.23 square kilometre, mainly cosisting of tombs from the Neolithic Period as well as the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties, have been discovered. On Zhongbao, the island in Hubei Province where the dam will actually be built, apart from the tombs dating from the Neolithic Period, there are tombs from the Zhou Dynasty (c.11th century-221 B.C.), Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589), and the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) Dynasties. Archaeological departments have concluded that the construction site was home to the Daxi and Qujialing cultures some 7,000 years ago. The symbols found on pottery excavated from Yangjiawan may well provide some important clues to the study of the origin of Chinese characters. A large number of stone carvings and tablets have also been unearthed.

Wudang Mountains Forest Park

A forest park developed by the Wudang Mountain State Forest Farm covering 3,800 hectares has been opened in the Wudang Mountains in Hubei. The park features dramatic mountain peaks, thick forests, clear streams and springs, a great variety of plants and animals and historical sites and scenic spots.

Li and Miao Folk Villages to Open

Two folk villages of Li and Miao peoples covering 16.7 hectares will include an amusement park, a festival square, a man-made beach, an artificial waterfall and tennis courts. A joint-venture between Chinese and Hong Kong firms, with a total investment of US$7.78 million, the Li village is to be constructed in five different styles according to the salient architectural features of the Lis' five branches. The villages, located in Tongshi, Hainan Province. are expected to open before March 3, a local traditional festival.

Aviary Opens in Hong Kong

The Edward Youde Aviary at Hong Kong Park, featuring a rich collection of birds and trees, is now open to the public. There are more than 450 birds native to forests in Malaysia, including sharmas, straw-crowned bulbuls, fairy bluebirds, orioles and ground dwelling pheasants. Some 400 trees representing some 70 species native to the tropics provide shelter for the birds as well as shade for people.

China's Largest Garment Fair

The China International Apparel and Accessories Fair – Chic '93 – to be held next May will be a milestone for the industry The fair will feature trade negotiations, exhibitions and seminars. Top fashion designers from around the world will also be invited. The fair will also feature a poll and a judging committee to choose the top ten trademarks from Chinese firms and foreign-invested companies respectively. The fair is intended to forge closer links between China's garment industry and its counterparts in the outside world.

New Travel Route

The Suifenhe Branch of the Tourism Administration of Heilongjiang has recently opened a three-day travelling route from Suifenhe, Heilongjiang to Vladivostok, a port city in Russia. It is similar to the regular route between Heihe, Heilongjiang and Blagovescensk, Russia.

New Year Picture Museum Opens

China's first museum of New Year pictures has recently been opened in Wuqiang County, Hebei, which has been dubbed the "Home of New Year Pictures". The museum has collected over 1,500 sets of old Wuqiang New Year pictures and more than 2,000 pieces, and books of New Year pictures. Wuqiang County is one of the five major production centres of wood-block print New Year pictures in China.

Audio-Video Telephone System

A newly installed audio-video telephone system, put into operation in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, links that city with Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. Also now operational is a telephone network that provides colour television conference service between Fuzhou and six other cities in Fujian Province. Fujian is the first province in China to establish such an inter-provincial telephone network.

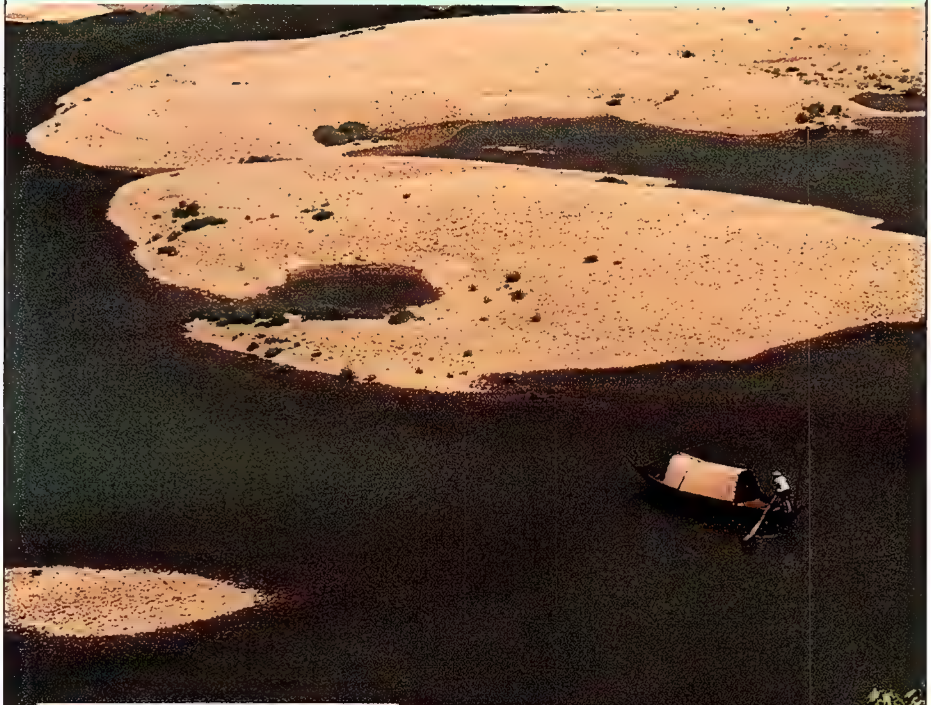
Ancient Altay Rock Paintings and Carvings

Some 75 groups of rock paintings and carvings have been found in the 1,000-kilometre-long Altay Mountain Range along the borders of China, Mongolia and Russia. The rock paintings may date back more than 5,000 years ago and may represent a missing link in the rock painting chain that links the northern mountainous pasturelands of Europe, Asia and North America. But there have been some puzzling finds. Animals such as elephants and kangaroos that probably never roamed the Altays appear in some of the paintings. Archaeologists have found no other traces of human habitation in the nearby cliff caves.

NEXT ISSUE

CHINA-WIDE SPECIAL

It is appropriate that in our next issue, a CHINA-WIDE SPECIAL, we venture south to the picturesque Nanxi River in southeastern Zhejiang near Wenzhou and to Rongxian County in southeastern Guangxi, the latter of which is the home of the mouth-watering Shatian pomelo. We then travel northeast to Jiangsu to pay a visit to the Memorial Hall of Xu Xiake, a renowned Ming Dynasty geographer, traveller and explorer, whose expeditions, mainly on foot, took him to most parts of China. Finally, we veer in a southwesterly direction towards Sichuan to observe the exciting Water Releasing Festival in honour of the ancient Dujiang Weir system just northwest of Chengdu, and finish up on the Songpan Grassland to celebrate a successful harvest with the native Jiarong Tibetans.



- **Nanxi River, Where Scenic Spots Abound**
- **The Shatian Pomelo — A Specialty from Rongxian County**
- **Festival in Honour of the Ancient Dujiang Weir System**
- **The Jiarong Tibetans Celebrate Their Harvest**
- **Memorial to a Famous Geographer**

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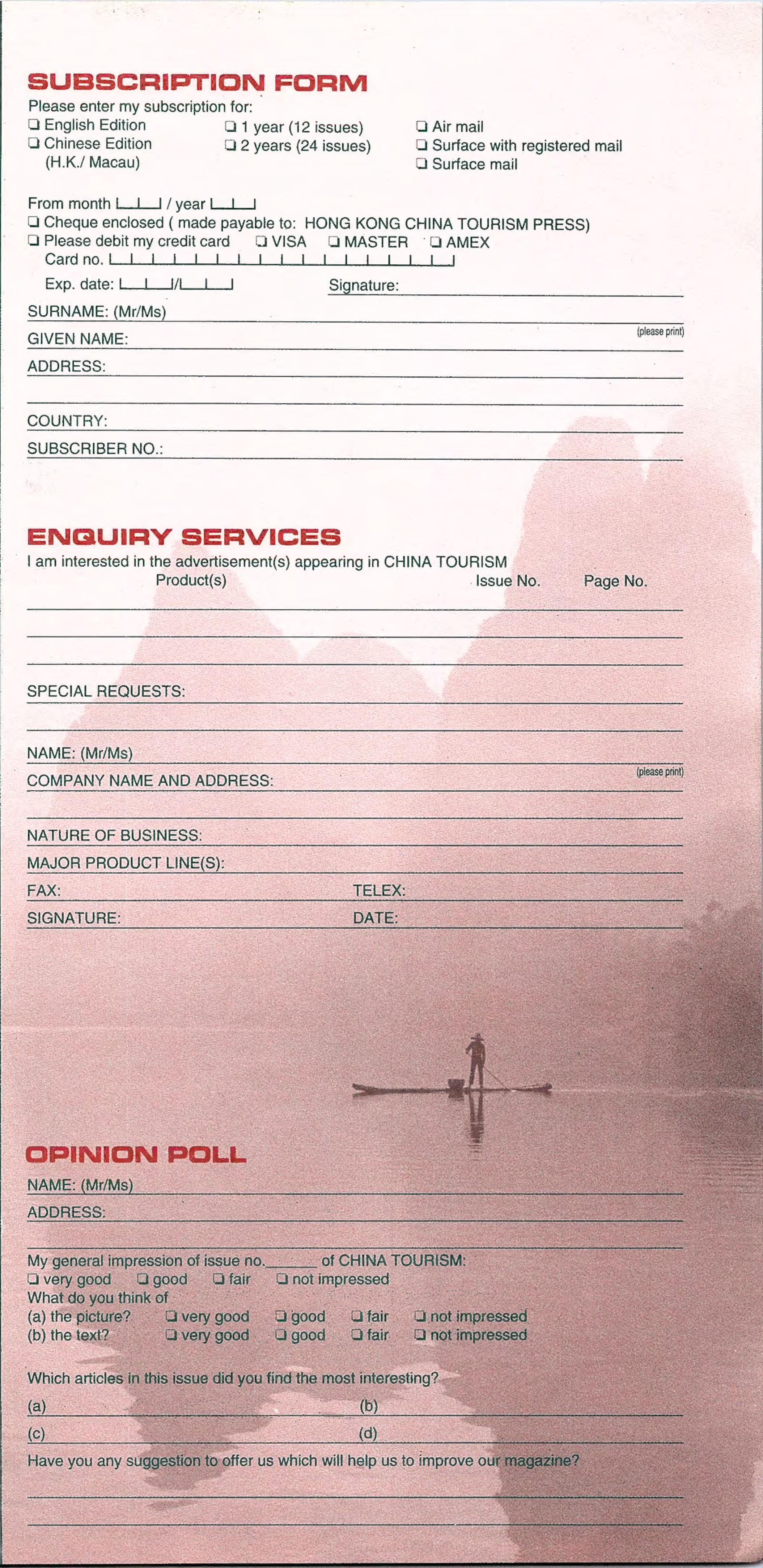

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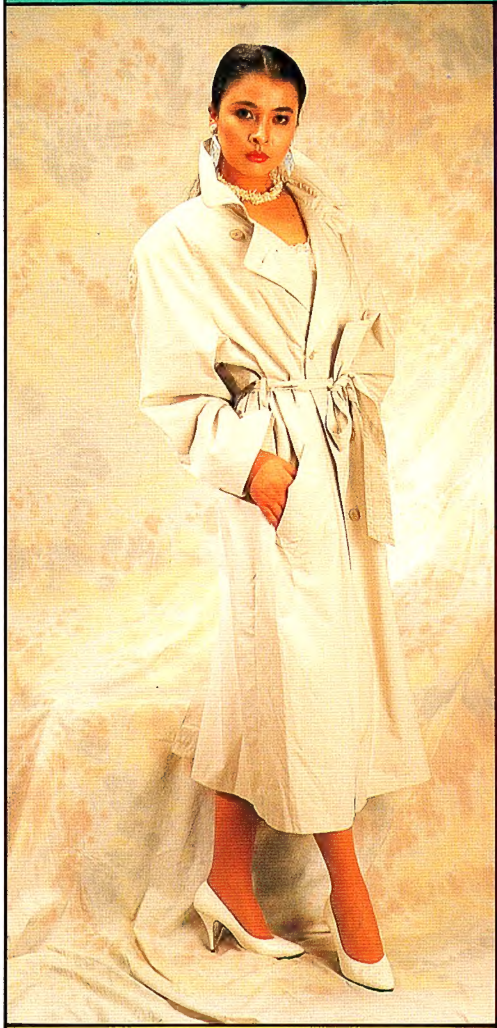

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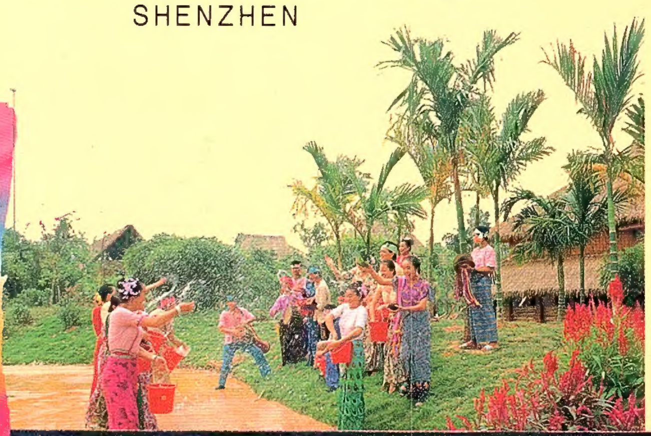

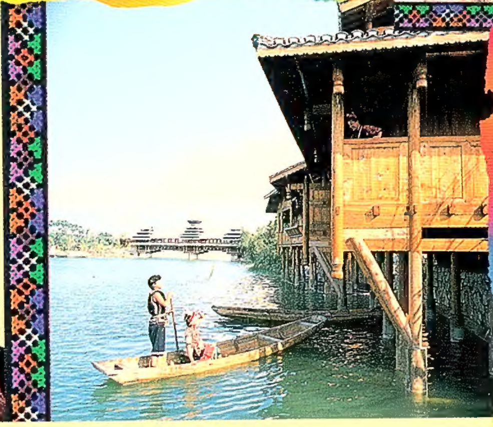

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